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Woman behind every successful woman

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THE TIMES

No. 64,568

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15 1993

45p

Major faces Maastricht 'constitutional crisis'

Ministers' confused tactics over the Maastricht Bill have increased the chances of a Commons defeat. Ulster unionists may join Euro-rebels in voting for Labour's social chapter amendment

By JILL SHERMAN AND JONATHAN PRYNN

MINISTERS were warned last night that a constitutional crisis would be triggered if the government tried to bypass Parliament to ratify the Maastricht treaty by invoking the Crown prerogative.

Reports yesterday said the prime minister was preparing to ratify the treaty without the social chapter, even if the Commons voted to adopt it. Downing Street refused to confirm or deny reports in several Sunday newspapers which suggested that Mr Major would invoke a royal prerogative to get the bill through.

Officials said the vote would be won but referred pointedly to a statement made by Douglas Hurd last week which said "there was no question of our ratifying a treaty other than the one we negotiated". But

underlined the fragility of the government's position by saying they might vote for the Labour amendment.

Labour later warned of uproar if attempts were made to bypass Parliament by "trickery". George Robertson, shadow foreign minister, said: "If the government overrules the Commons vote on the social chapter by invoking the royal prerogative, it will be an historic betrayal of Parliament." Tory rebels insisted that the tactics would not deter them from supporting Labour.

Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, said the government was intent on ratifying the treaty without the social chapter, at all costs, but failed to say what the it would do if the amendment was passed. Interviewed on television before the question of the royal prerogative was raised, Mr Clarke appeared to back down from last week's warnings that the treaty would be wrecked. It was essential for Britain to ratify the treaty to continue as a full participating member of the Community, he said.

A leading constitutional expert rejected claims that the government could bypass Parliament. Bernard Rudden, professor of comparative law at Brasenose College, Oxford, said the 1978 European parliament elections act required British parliamentary approval for any treaties or protocols that increased the powers of the European parliament.

Enactment of the provisions of the social chapter would require substantial European parliament involvement and would trigger the 1978 act, Professor Rudden said. The protocol involved Britain "giving permission to the 11 to use the EC law-making mechanism, so the protocol gives powers to the European Parliament".

His view contradicted those of other academics. Michael Zander, professor of law at LSE, said it had always been the constitutional position that treaties were signed and ratified by the executive. "There's no need for Parliament to ratify the treaty or ratify approval by the government, so the government can go ahead without it," he said.

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several MPs were convinced the government was privately employing another tactic to stop Tory rebels voting with Labour on the critical amendment 27, which aims to reverse Britain's opt out from the social chapter.

Last week Mr Hurd's remarks were interpreted to mean the bill and the treaty would be wrecked if MPs voted to adopt the social chapter. That tactic served only as a green light to Tory rebels to support the amendment.

Ministers, aware of the government's 21 majority and desperate to ward off a Tory defeat, appeared yesterday to be totally confused as to the message they should put forward. The Ulster unionists

MOTHER'S ANGUISH AS POLICE FIND BOY'S BODY



Tears of grief: Denise Bulger, who was told by police that a body found yesterday on a railway embankment near Anfield, Merseyside, may be her missing two-year-old son, James. She last saw him on Saturday. Page 3

Social workers accused of cover-up in Orkney case

By RAY CLANCY

ACCUSATIONS of a cover-up in the Orkney child sex abuse case last night led to calls for a new enquiry. Documents uncovered by The Times show that the extent of the collusion by social workers has remained hidden because of the narrow remit of the £6 million public inquiry chaired by Lord Clyde, which found that those involved had acted in "good faith".

The documents show that professionals involved in the case hatched an action plan to remove children from the islands, held secret meetings and deliberately flouted statutory child care procedures.

Members of Orkney Islands Council are calling for the resignation of some officials including Paul Lee, the social work director, and Ron Gilbert, chief executive, in the light of the new revelations two years after the dawn raids that snatched nine children from their beds on South Ronaldsay.

Among those who stood up to the social workers is Katherine Kemp, Reporter to the local children's panel and the first person to whom child referrals are made. She and other members of the panel are talking for the first time about the pressure they were under to toe the social workers' line.

If Mrs Kemp, who was suspended for more than a year while key decisions were taken, had not been removed, the tragedy may never have happened.

The documents, which include minutes of case conferences, social work reports and independent assess-

ments of the children, as well as letters, cast doubt on the local authority's ability to carry out its statutory functions.

Another scandal involving millions of pounds being spent on a new ferry terminal which is unlikely ever to be used, is adding fuel to the debate amid calls for the resignations of Mr Gilbert and Rowan McCallum, director of legal services, over their part in deeply flawed projects.

Many believe the investigation of the social work department being undertaken by five councillors is not enough to uncover the truth. Mrs Kemp said last night that a new enquiry was the only way for the whole truth to come out. "Lord Clyde's

Special report on the doubts raised by the Orkney child sex abuse case. Page 5

remit was very restrictive. There is very much more that needs to be investigated. The only forum for the truth to come out is a court sitting or an enquiry where people like myself, who have confidential information, can speak out."

Ian MacDonald, a councillor on the social work committee, said: "The situation has become impossible in Orkney. When you want to call the council to task you find there has been so much collusion that they start covering up for each other."

He also called for Mr Lee, and Mhairi Trickett, the social work chairman, and Jackie Tait, council convenor, to resign.

British Muslim threatens to break all of Rushdie's bones

By JAMES LANDALE AND MIKE THEODOULOU

ON THE fourth anniversary of the fatwa which forced Salman Rushdie into hiding, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the spiritual leader of Iran, yesterday issued the death sentence while Dr Kalim Siddiqui, the leader of the self-styled British Muslim parliament, threatened to "break every bone in [Mr Rushdie's] body". The author said the edict was "a straightforward terrorist threat" and received further backing from the government.

Mr Siddiqui said: "I do not want to kill him. We will just want to break every bone in his body." Speaking on LBC radio, he said: "If this man does not leave the centre stage and if he doesn't stop insulting us, then ultimately we will have to come and get him".

Ayatollah Khamenei said that the fatwa, issued by the late Ayatollah Khomeini because of the alleged "blasphemies" contained in Mr Rushdie's book, *The Satanic*

Verses, was "binding and irrevocable". He said: "Imam Khomeini has thrown an arrow at this impudent apostate. The arrow is moving towards its target and will sooner or later hit it."

"The fatwa... on the apostate Salman Rushdie must be implemented without a doubt, and it shall be implemented. It is the duty of all Muslims who can reach this mercenary writer today to remove this harmful being from the path of Muslims," Tehran radio quoted him as saying.

In a 20-minute address at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, Mr Rushdie, 45, said yesterday that the edict "far exceeds its author's jurisdiction, since it contravenes fundamental principles of Islamic law". He said: "Values and morals are independent of religious faith. Good and evil come before religion. That is where our freedom lies and it is that freedom which the

fatwa threatens and which it cannot be allowed to destroy." A Foreign Office spokesman said that the latest threats were "clearly unhelpful" and that Britain would continue to support all constructive efforts to resolve the issue of the "incitement to murder" Mr Rushdie. "We remain greatly concerned by the continuing failure of the Iranian authorities to repudiate this incitement to murder. It prevents the establishment of full and friendly relations between London and Tehran."

A Muslim foundation which offered more than \$3 million for Mr Rushdie's head also said that the time was ripe for the death sentence to be carried out. Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, appealed to Western countries to keep the Rushdie issue separate from bilateral relations with Iran.

Tehran plot, page 9

MPs win chance to spy on the spies

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PARLIAMENTARY committee to monitor Britain's security services looks certain to be sanctioned by the cabinet later this year.

A team of Foreign Office officials, in consultation with ministers and officials from other departments, is working on a list of options for the body's powers and membership. John Major has approved the principle of lifting some of the secrecy surrounding the legislation, due in the next session, to put M16 and the communications centre, GCHQ, on a statutory basis.

The cross-party Commons home affairs committee recently called for the right to monitor the intelligence services and discussed its proposals with Stella Rimington, head of M15.

The prime minister is understood to share the objec-

tions of Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to giving the existing committee of MPs extended powers to look into M15. Instead, Mr Major appears likely to want membership restricted to privy counsellors (PCs), who have sworn an oath of confidentiality.

Front runners for membership would be Sir John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North and former chairman of the home affairs committee, who was sworn in as a PC by the Queen last week, and John Gilbert, a former Labour defence minister and a PC since 1978.

A special committee would have the advantage over the home affairs committee of being able to scrutinise the security services which come under the Home Office (M15) and the Foreign Office (M16 and GCHQ).

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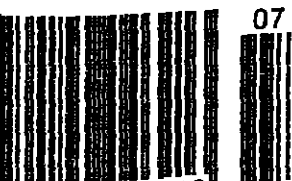
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bobby Moore is treated for cancer

Bobby Moore, captain of the England side that won the World Cup in 1966, yesterday disclosed he had cancer. In a statement, Mr Moore, pictured below, said an operation had been carried out on his colon in April 1991 and therapy was continuing after cancerous cells were identified in his liver. Mr Moore, 51, a former star with West Ham United, said: "Fortunately I have been able to continue leading my normal life and hope to continue doing so. I appreciate everyone's concern and above all the loving care and support of my family."



Mr Moore won 108 international caps and since he gave up playing has been involved in football management, radio commentary and business ventures. He returned recently from the United States where he was working on 1994 World Cup projects. Mr Moore is married, and has two grown-up children from a previous marriage.

Carey challenges Rome

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has challenged the Roman Catholic Church to respond positively to the Church of England's decision to ordain women priests. In an address that showed he has no intention of moderating his support for women priests, Dr Carey said: "Perhaps we should admit that no one church exhibits the fullness of the Christian life." Dr Carey believes unity with the Catholic church will be more difficult to achieve than ever without a positive response from Rome.

Sun apologises to Queen

The Sun today makes a front-page apology to the Queen for "unintentionally" causing personal offence by publishing the text of her Christmas message early. The newspaper also offers to give £200,000 to the Save the Children Fund. The climbdown follows a writ on behalf of the Queen which was served on The Sun last Thursday. Chris Davis, assistant editor, said the decision had come from the top. "It is Rupert Murdoch [chief executive of The News Corporation] who feels we should make this handsome gesture."

Gorilla students rescued

Two Bristol University students were rescued from Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, which inspired the film *Gorillas in the Mist*, after being trapped in a gun-battle between warring factions. Alistair McNeillage, 26, of Kilmacolm, Strathclyde, and Jocelyn Milner, 24, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, were due to leave the Kariakoo research centre last week after doing research for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, set up to save endangered gorillas, but found their path blocked by rival forces.

Police release mother

Detectives investigating the murder of Stacey Queripel, 7, released her mother Gillianne, 33, without charges last night after detaining her for 87 hours. Stacey was found strangled by a footpath in Bracknell, Berkshire, on January 24. Police thought her necklace had choked her but a second post-mortem five days later showed she had been murdered.

Major's local shop joins casualties as Brown attacks cuts in aid



Last post: Doug Belcher stands outside the village store and post office he and his wife, Eileen, used to own near the prime minister's home in the Huntingdon constituency. A

bank has repossessed the shop in Great Sukeley, Cambridgeshire, and the couple face losing their home. Tomorrow Barclays Mercantile, which lent the couple £150,000 in

1990, will move to repossess their £80,000 bungalow. Despite the Belchers both being over 60, the bank offered them a 20-year loan at a fixed rate totalling 16.5 per cent. Part of the

loan was secured on the Belchers' bungalow. The bank says it has to go ahead with the legal process of repossession but that it has not decided whether to evict the couple.

Labour's training challenge

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR challenged the prime minister yesterday over huge cuts in job training places as the government indicated that it could not afford an expensive package of schemes for the jobless and unemployment looked set to rise above three million on Thursday.

Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, said the government would be presenting a package to help the jobless in a few weeks. The measures, expected to be announced in the Budget and to encompass an element of welfare, would include schemes to "help people use their time as productively as possible", Mrs Shephard said. She stressed that real jobs would have to wait till economic recovery.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, asked John Major to explain why nearly 100,000 job training places had been cut under his premiership. "I want to know why, despite promises that government investment would rise, we have now discovered that public investment is to be cut by £600m in the coming year and direct investment by £1.7 billion over three years — a 10 per cent fall."

The cabinet committee on unemployment chaired by Lord Wakeham, the Lords' leader, has decided the outlines of the package. Mrs Shephard is finalising the details in consultation with the Chancellor and the prime minister, expected to include an expanded business start-up scheme.



Shephard: aims to help jobless be productive

Dole accelerates in Tory seats

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Three million jobless takes on more than symbolic significance as unemployment strikes at the Tory heartland

UNEMPLOYMENT is rising twice as quickly in Conservative constituencies as in Labour ones, according to analysis of joblessness since the general election by *The Times*.

The political threat of unemployment, expected to pass three million in figures to be issued by the government this week, is underlined by the fact that total unemployment in Conservative seats is now only slightly less than the number out of work in Labour seats, traditionally seen as areas of high unemployment.

The continuing rise in unemployment in Tory areas at more than double the rate of increase in Labour areas illustrates the political, as well as economic, difficulties for the government. Ministers are

braced for a further rise this week in numbers out of work and claiming benefit across the South in Tory strongholds.

As well as the prospect of unemployment exceeding three million for the first time in eight years, its relatively fast rise in Tory areas may be a reason why Conservative ministers are putting increasing stress on measures to help the unemployed, which will be unveiled fully in a package next month with the Budget.

Computer analysis by *The Times* shows that, since the general election last April, unemployment in Tory-held constituencies has risen by

12.9 per cent — more than twice the 5.4 per cent increase in Labour seats.

Unemployment in Tory areas, according to the analysis of data held on government computers, has risen by almost 157,000, while in Labour constituencies it has risen by nearly 72,000.

Although most unemployment specialists acknowledge that it is the fear of unemployment, spurred on by its rate of increase, which is at the forefront of voters' worries about joblessness, ministers insist that the rise in unemployment in Conservative areas is from a low base, and that the number

of people out of work in the Tory heartlands remains comparatively low. However, the *Times* analysis shows for the first time that the level of unemployment in Tory areas is now almost equalling the number of jobless in Labour areas.

Unemployment in Tory seats, principally in the South, which had not been touched much by unemployment previously, stands at 1.37 million — only 30,000 behind total unemployment of 1.4 million in Labour seats, often in old industrial areas in the North, Scotland and Wales.

The 2 percentage point gap between Conservative and Labour unemployment contrast with an 8.6 point gap at the time of the election, and a 60-point gap when unemployment started to rise early in 1990.

The gap now is ten times narrower than it was then, when it stood at almost 370,000, and is sharply tighter than the 114,000 gap at the time of the election.

Liberal Democrat area unemployment is just over 80,000. Since unemployment started to rise, the increase in Lib Dem seats has, at 77 per cent, been faster than that in Labour seats, which have seen a 50 per cent rise. In the same period, Conservative area unemployment has risen by more than 140 per cent.

However, Liberal Democrat unemployment has been increasing more rapidly since the election. Its rise of nearly 14 per cent since then may reflect Liberal Democrats' having taken seats from Tories, such as Bath and Devon North, in fast-rising unemployment areas of the South.

Spies will face close scrutiny

Continued from page 1
by officials is whether to include peers on the committee as they would be removed from constituency and overtly political pressures.

Former cabinet ministers, especially former home secretaries, could then be included on the committee. MPs, however, would inevitably protest about allowing peers to examine the security services' spending plans.

The home affairs committee rejected a special committee of privy councillors as "a trifle patronising" and ruled out a joint committee for both Houses.

Mr Major may decide to order the committee to report directly to the Cabinet Office rather than to parliament. The Commons would then have less scope for debating and questioning the findings in the reports. However, anything short of a Commons cross-party committee reporting to the House will be unlikely to find favour with the Labour party or the Liberal Democrats.

The honours scrutiny committee of three peers makes its confidential report to Downing Street when vetting names put forward for honours' lists. Although the size of the proposed "spies" committee has not been decided, it is expected to be larger than the honours committee and will not be confined to peers.

Navy cuts under threat

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Navy plans to take more than a dozen frigates and destroyers out of full operational service and put them on reserve status to save money are under threat because of increasing commitments.

HMS *Andromeda*, a Leander class frigate with Exocet and Sea Wolf missiles, will be the first warship to be put on "extended readiness". Its crew will be smaller and it will have only low priority tasks.

The frigate will be put into reserve later this year. Another 13 warships have been earmarked for a similar role, leaving 24 ships to take on priority tasks at the normal state of readiness.

The navy says that, with the ending of the cold war threat from the former Soviet navy, there is no need to keep all frigates and destroyers on full readiness.

Under the government's Options for Change plan for the navy, the number of frigates and destroyers will be cut from about 50 to 38. But the defence ministry has to make extra cuts of more than £1 billion over the next two years, following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. Since the statement, the navy has taken on a new commitment in the Adriatic.

Lamont gets mixed message on Budget

By Jonathan Prynn and Jill Sherman

NORMAN Lamont faces an uphill task in preparing what could be his last Budget in March, with backbenchers sharply divided over whether taxes should be raised to tackle the growing public-sector deficit.

A straw-poll of Tory backbenchers carried out by *The Times* has disclosed that, while about half would support an increase in indirect taxes such as VAT and excise duties, the remainder give warning that Mr Lamont raises tax rates at his peril. Most say that the Budget should be aimed at promoting recovery and presenting a convincing strategy to reduce the budget deficit.

One MP suggested that VAT changes could be staged over two to three budgets, but that the Chancellor should make his intentions clear immediately. Almost all agree that the Chancellor should not touch levels of income tax, and there is also widespread support for an extension of capital allowances for investment to help stimulate economic recovery.

Mr Lamont faces the difficulties of sharply rising government borrowing and a feeble economic recovery that remains dangerously vulnerable to shocks such as sharp tax rises.

The government has two chances to address the dilemma this year, because reforms of the financial timetable

means a second budget will be presented in December. Most of the MPs questioned did not expect or want Mr Lamont to deliver the December budget.

The deficit, projected to grow to at least £44 billion next year, has already provoked public calls for higher taxes from senior Conservative party figures. Lord Howe, the former Chancellor, said last month that Mr Lamont should raise taxes "sooner rather than later". However, the view remains unpopular among many backbenchers.

John Watts, chairman of the Commons treasury and civil service select committee, said: "There should be no premature increase in taxes, no further reduction in interest rates and it should be steady as she goes." If there had to be tax rises they should be delayed until there was clear evidence of a strong recovery and they should not affect direct taxes.

John Butcher, MP for Coventry South West and a former chief secretary to the Treasury, said: "The lesson of the Bush demise is that if you raise taxes having promised not to, then you lose the next election."

Ian Bruce, from Dorset south, said the Chancellor's priority should be to not upset the recovery. Any tax changes should be strictly marginal, such as not fully indexing the upper income tax bands, he added.

Prince finds a special relationship

AL AND Tipper held a quiet little dinner party for the Prince of Wales in Washington on Saturday night during his brief weekend visit to the United States, and Bill and Hillary just happened to drop by.

British Embassy officials had spent days of uncertainty wondering whether President Clinton would find time to meet the prince: no meeting had been asked for by the British, and none had been offered by the White House. There was even a whisper that the president might take a high moral stance and refuse to meet the alleged co-star of Camillagate.

But the Americans are a generous and welcoming race. Vice-president Gore hosted an intimate supper party for his

old friend the prince, a long-standing ally on holes in the ozone layer, and the Clintons found time at the last minute to join the gathering. Honour was satisfied on all sides.

But their welcome, low-key and private, did not begin to compare with the reception accorded the prince by 10,000 students, staff and alumni at the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, Virginia, America's second oldest university, at the culmination of its tercentenary celebrations on Saturday. The assembled college gave the prince a rousing ovation that he has not heard since long before the outbreak of his recent personal difficulties. Tickets issued free for the prince's address on Saturday were reportedly changing

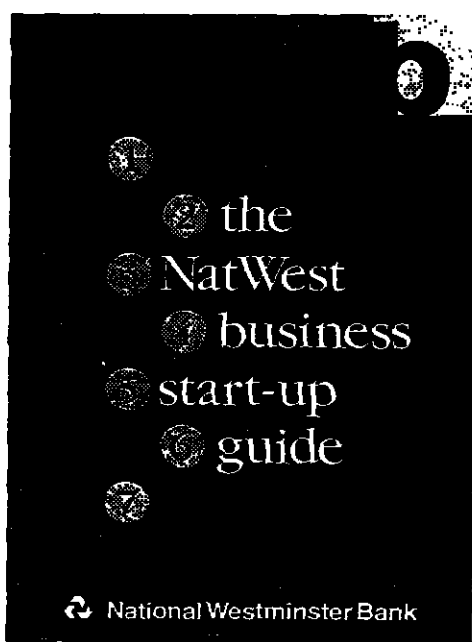
hands for up to \$25. The prince appeared visibly touched by a prolonged standing ovation as he took his seat.

He was jokey, relaxed and more at ease with himself and his audience than he has appeared for many months. His jokes were laughed at, and when he had finished the house erupted yet again.

Students were well aware of the prince's marriage problems, and the Camillagate tapes had enjoyed wide circulation on the campus. But their reception was nonetheless generous. "I felt so warm and nostalgic when he entered the room: he reminds us so much of our history, and his marital problems just seem irrelevant to us: he is human, like we are," Nicole Bibbins, an international relations student, said.

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Hunt for two-year-old leads to discovery three miles from shopping precinct where he disappeared

Body found on rail embankment may be missing boy

By RONALD FAUX

A BODY believed to be that of two-year-old James Bulger was found beside a railway line yesterday evening, 48 hours after he disappeared on a shopping trip with his mother in Bootle, Merseyside.

The body was discovered by two children on a railway embankment behind the Walton Lane police station near Anfield cemetery. James went shopping with his mother on Friday afternoon at the Strand shopping centre. Video security cameras recorded him leaving with two youths. His body was found about three and a half miles away.

Police broke the news of the find to James's parents Denise, 25, and Ralph, 26, at Marsh Lane police station, where they had spent much of the past two days.

Chief Inspector Geoff McDonald said the last sighting of James was about an hour after his disappearance and a mile away at the Breeze Hill reservoir, Walton.

"We had a sighting about 4.30 on Friday evening near a covered reservoir. A woman saw a small boy answering James's description with two other boys. The woman approached the youths and

asked them who the boy was. They said they had just found the child and then they walked off. The woman was quite satisfied the boy was happy to be with the two youths."

Mr McDonald said that if James had been abducted then it was an opportunistic act. It might be, he said, that the boys were infatuated by the affection of the child and had walked off with him.

Teams of detectives studied hours of video tape taken by 15 security cameras at the shopping centre in Bootle. Video stills taken every three seconds give a precise picture

of when he disappeared.

At 3.37 Mrs Bulger is seen entering the shopping centre and going into a butcher's shop. At 3.38 James is seen wandering out of the shop towards another department store. At 3.39 Mrs Bulger is seen searching for James. At 3.41 another camera picked out James walking across Mons Square following two boys, who appeared to be beckoning to him. At 3.42 James is seen walking hand in hand with one of the boys towards the shopping centre exit and a minute later the toddler is seen at the front door of the shopping centre with the boys.

They appear to be walking in the direction of Liverpool. More than 100 police officers had taken part in a widespread search, and police divers were drafted in to examine the reservoir where James was last seen. Police helicopters hovered over derelict buildings and officers on the ground searched buildings where homeless youngsters are said to sleep rough.

At a press conference earlier Denise Bulger broke down in tears as she appealed for the return of her son. "I was buying meat at the butcher's



The video frame showing James being led away



James Bulger, a trusting two-year-old, who may now be dead



Ralph Bulger, his son was "a bubbly kid"

BA set to announce collapse of profits

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways is tomorrow expected to announce that its profits collapsed in the three months to January to little more than £15 million, compared with £100 million in the same quarter of 1992.

The poor results will further undermine morale in the airline as Robert Ayling, its new managing director, attempts to finalise a package of measures to settle the "dirty tricks" dispute with Richard Branson.

The talks between the two airlines are likely to go on for much of this week, delaying the announcement of a new management structure in which those employees considered most culpable in the "dirty tricks" will either be moved out or demoted and a much tighter system of control over the sales and marketing departments introduced.

The talks between BA and Virgin are said by both sides to be progressing well although there are disagreements over the details. BA is anxious to begin maintaining Virgin's aircraft at its Heathrow engineering base for the first time since 1988 when Mr Branson moved work on his fleet to Dublin after a dispute over delays.

BA is prepared to offer £3 million in compensation for the many occasions on which Virgin was forced to lease

aircraft to meet its flying schedules.

Virgin claims that this is insufficient, but a settlement is likely soon because BA now has plenty of spare capacity and Virgin would prefer to have its jets serviced at Heathrow.

BA is also prepared to help to obtain more take off and landing slots at Heathrow to enable Virgin to expand, but foreign airlines are saying that any deal to swap slots between the two British carriers would be unfair, and possibly illegal.

Virgin is also seeking compensation for the loss of business it incurred from the "switch selling" techniques used by BA staff to persuade Virgin passengers to use BA aircraft. The amount involved is in dispute, and BA has suggested the appointment of an independent arbitrator to assess the losses.

BA is not prepared to pay any further compensation for the "smears" allegedly spread about Virgin's operations, insisting that the £610,000 libel damages and legal fees were sufficient.

The poor results are despite an increase in the number of passengers carried in the autumn. Companies are ordering staff to travel economy instead of first- or business-class, and competition on many of the most popular routes led to special offers.

Girl left at home may go into care

By A STAFF REPORTER

COUNCILLORS are likely to consider whether the 11-year-old girl found alone at home pending for herself should be returned to her mother when she returns from a Spanish holiday, it emerged yesterday. Police are still trying to trace Yasmin Gibson, 34, on the Costa Del Sol.

Social services took Gemma Gibson into care after a neighbour looking after her went into hospital. The older woman living with her, thought to be in her 80s, could not cope. It is not clear whether Ms Gibson, an actress, had made arrangements with neighbours, who had cared for Gemma before. During a telephone call to a neighbour this weekend, Ms Gibson apparently indicated that she intended to continue her holiday.

Members of Hammersmith and Fulham council's social services committee said yesterday they needed to know full details of the case, but that the law required a child's best interests were put first.

Emile al-Uzazi, deputy leader of the Tory opposition group and a member of the committee, said: "The Children's Act emphasises we have to do what is best for the child, and that has tended to mean more children are taken into care or placed in foster care."

Judge tells Guppy he faces lengthy prison sentence

By BILL FROST

DARIUS Guppy, the old Etonian who was best man to Earl Spencer, the Princess of Wales's brother, is awaiting sentence after being found guilty of three counts of fraud and conspiracy.

The jury, which returned verdicts on Saturday afternoon after a three-month trial and more than two days' deliberation, had heard how Guppy had boasted of pulling off "the perfect crime" after organising a fake robbery while visiting New York with his partner Benedict Marsh.

The pair had taken out a £1.8 million insurance policy with Lloyd's of London to cover a trip on which they would supposedly be selling jewels in America. They paid Peter Risdon, an acquaintance, £10,000 to stage a bogus raid, stealing the gems from their hotel safe and leaving them tied up on their beds to enact what James Curtis, for the prosecution, described as "a quite brilliant performance" reporting the "theft" to the New York police.

Rakish, arrogant, gifted and good looking, Darius Guppy recruited an army of detractors and enemies as he cruised from achievement to achievement. A top first at Oxford in



Darius Guppy, boasted of "perfect crime"

modern history and French literature, Guppy treated most of the prosecution witnesses to a sneer of withering disdain from the dock. Only moments before he was found guilty, Guppy was entertaining reporters with denials of any infatuation with the Princess of Wales. "We have never kissed. There are no pictures of Diana and myself. There is no Guppygate tape," he said.

During the two-day wait for the jury to return, Guppy told reporters: "I am not afraid of going to jail." Guppy and Marsh still await trial on further charges of gold-smuggling, but Judge Andrew Brooks told the pair: "I do not want you to leave the dock

with any illusions at all. I want you to know that you are both going to prison for a very long time."

After three months listening to the evidence of 67 witnesses from 18 countries and hearing that Guppy threatened to kill one key witness and then bribed him with £20,000 to leave Britain before the case came to trial, the jury returned 10-2 majority verdicts against Guppy and Marsh on charges of conspiracy to defraud, and unanimous guilty verdicts on charges of conspiracy to steal and conspiracy to commit false accounting.

Acquaintances denounced Guppy.

A contemporary at Magdalen said: "You can be too handsome, too clever and too successful. Such gifts sometimes place you beyond other people's moral framework - you think you are able to get away with anything by using your brain and your good looks."

With such a pedigree, Guppy was probably marked out for an interesting career. At his wedding Earl Spencer said of his best man: "I knew Darius would be a 'millionaire or would have visited the cells by the time he was 30."

Diary, page 14

Take a good look. It's the last you'll ever see of it.

It takes a force of 50 kilos to close the backplate of a Rolex Oyster.

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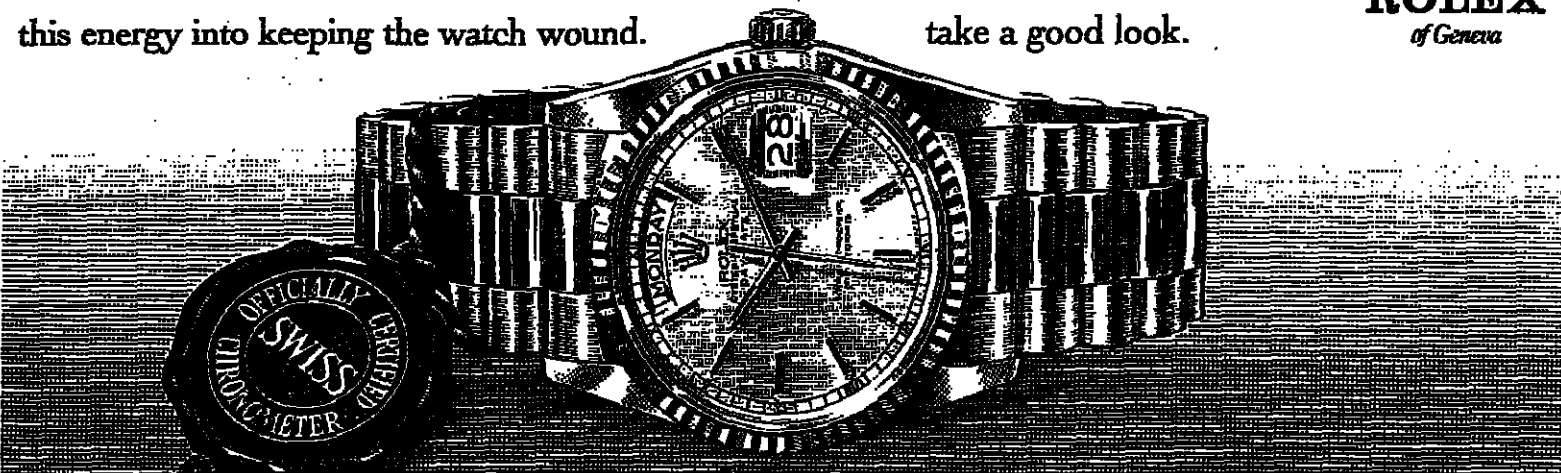
that if, at any stage during the process, a part is rejected by one of our inspectors it is not only because of any minor inaccuracy, but also for aesthetic reasons.

In other words: because it doesn't look good enough.

Which is an interesting thought, considering that - apart from the Rolex craftsmen who make it, the examiners of the Contrôle Officiel Suisse des Chronomètres who award it the coveted title 'Chronometer', and the Rolex jewellers who service it - no one else is ever going to set eyes on the sparkling miniature masterpiece that is the pearl inside every Rolex Oyster.

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Fresh
Orkney
reopen



Did you
whether
Grant-in-aid
Have
GM status?

Two years after nine children were snatched from their beds, the anguish continues

Fresh evidence on Orkney home raids reopens old wounds

By RAY CLANCY

TWO years after a cavalcade of unmarked police cars snaked across the salt-sprayed Churchill barriers that link South Ronaldsay with the main Orkney islands to take nine children from their beds at dawn, accusations of collusion and a cover-up by social workers are leading to calls for a new enquiry.

On Orkney, the feelings of outrage and injustice are as strong as ever. The nine youngsters, still bearing the emotional scars of being separated from parents accused of being part of an organised child sex ring, are trying to carry on normally. Other children, who allegedly told social workers about orgies in a remote quarry, are still in care.

The whole truth has never emerged and the people who live on this beautiful archipelago are not prepared to speak out. Behind closed doors they freely discuss the scandal, but the only sign of disdain is their refusal to acknowledge those regarded as responsible in the checkout queues at the local supermarket.

As the old wounds are reopened, there have also been calls for a number of resignations, including that of Mhairi Trickett, the Orkney social work chairman, and Jackie Tait, the Islands Council convenor.

An investigation by *The Times* has found that the decision to remove nine children in the dawn raids was the direct result of earlier judgments that were not examined fully by the judicial inquiry headed by Lord Clyde.

Social workers in Orkney met officials from the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in 1989. They formulated a plan to deal with the "W" family, living on South Ronaldsay, whose father had already been jailed for sexually abusing some of his 15 children.

It was alleged that disclosures by some of the W children implicated another four families. Nine children from these families were taken away on February 27, 1991. That raid, the suffering caused to the families and the subsequent £6 million enquiry all could have been avoided.

The action plan took shape at a case conference on July 17, 1989, in Kirkwall to examine whether the W children should continue to be on the "at risk" register. A few days earlier an Orkney children's panel hearing had decided, after an eight-hour session, that some of the children in care on the mainland should return home. They had been removed under a place-of-safety order

The full truth about the Orkney sex abuse case has still not been told, long after the dawn raids that were to change the lives of many island families

following allegations by one that she had been sexually abused by a brother.

However, at the case conference, social workers from the RSSPCC, Highland Region and Orkney decided to ignore the local panel's decision. The RSSPCC social workers had been studying contentious theories about ritual abuse from America based on an assumption by Roland Summit that abused children can take years to reveal what has happened and should be constantly questioned even when they deny abuse.

The Summit theory is now seen by experts as one of the main reasons for the Orkney children being taken away from their parents.

The case conference heard that there was no evidence to support the allegations of inter-sibling abuse, but it was decided that the children should remain separated.

Norman Dunning, the RSSPCC divisional manager, said they should ignore the panel decision, an irregular procedural move. The minutes of the meeting say: "His advice, in view of the fact that the decision of the children's panel could not be challenged, was to procrastinate and not to carry out the decision." Both Mr Dunning and Michelle Miller, an Orkney social worker, said further disclosures of abuse would be impossible if the children returned home.

There is little mention in the minutes of the rights of the children and the need to keep families together, whenever possible. The meeting also brought to a head what some now regard as a sub-plot to discredit the local children's panel and its Reporter, Katherine Kemp. In Scotland the Reporter, appointed by the secretary of state, is the first person to whom any child referrals are made and the one who decides whether cases should go to a hearing presided over by a three-member lay panel.

In Orkney, the panel chairman had insisted that the children should appear at hearings, but this meant they would have contact with their mother, which the social workers wanted to avoid because they were sticking to the Summit theory. A few months later, in March 1990, Mrs Kemp was locked out of her office and suspended. Ron Gilbert, the council's chief executive, applied to the Scottish secretary for consent to dismiss her. Mrs Kemp re-

mained suspended for over a year while the council and the Scottish Office delayed hearing her case. The secretary of state eventually ordered her reinstatement. Gordon Sloan was appointed interim Reporter and presided over the remaining hearings.

Letters obtained by *The Times* show that the issue could have been resolved much more quickly. Mrs Kemp wrote to the Scottish secretary in April 1990 warning him that the child care system in Orkney had collapsed. Clearly she had stood in the way of the plans formulated at the 1989 case conference.

Dr David Reid, consultant paediatrician with the Medical Institute for Research into Child Cruelty, said: "Mrs Kemp was just about the only sane person left in this case. The worst child abuse scandal in Britain would never have happened if she had remained in her job."

Eileen Laughton, who had more than ten years' experience on the panel, struggled to keep control of the situation. "There was a lot of pressure but it did not frighten me into making the decisions that they [social workers] wanted. They wanted the kids away for ever. They were all in collusion; they all agreed."

In August 1989, Mr Dunning wrote a scathing attack on the panel and the Reporter. He claimed that the panel had ignored the serious nature of the allegations, had delayed over requests for referral to a sheriff and had deliberately excluded Michelle Miller from a hearing. Yet until this time, the panel and social work department had been functioning normally. Criticisms of the panel and Mrs Kemp surfaced only after the RSSPCC became involved.

In February 1990, Paul Lee



Trapped by a tide of official injustice: one of the South Ronaldsay families torn apart by the Orkney child abuse scandal



Gilbert: applied for consent to dismiss child panel official



Mackenzie: minister who with wife helped the "W" family



Trickett: calls for her resignation



Lord Clyde: remit of his £6m enquiry said to be too narrow

was appointed director of social work with the task of reorganising the department. He sent a report to all social workers, in which he stressed the need for being "an effective, caring organisation, sensitive to the needs of individuals and the community". Social workers should "protect the vulnerable" and be committed

to "the rights of individuals and families to choose". Mr Lee then appears to have stood back while these recommendations were ignored and flouted by his own department.

The W children were eventually returned home under supervision orders, but the back-up help recommended

by the panel, which was supposed to include a home help and regular visits from social workers, never materialised. A number of neighbours on South Ronaldsay had rallied round to help Mrs W, including the Rev Morris MacKenzie and his wife Ian. Mr and Mrs "M" and the "T" family. These families, whose child-

ren were taken in the dawn raids, still cannot be identified for legal reasons.

In October 1990, the children's panel met for the annual review of the W family, but there had been a number of significant changes. Not only had Mrs Kemp been suspended, but the pressures exerted on the panel from the social work department and the RSSPCC contributed to the resignation of Philip Cooper, the panel chairman. He is still employed by the council as a teacher and has never spoken publicly about his reasons for leaving.

The council began a recruitment drive which led to the appointment of new panel members, and various people believe the social work department was securing positions for panel members who were less likely to prevent the department taking any action it wanted.

Soon after, one of the W children was taken into care

after she told a teacher that her brothers had been sexually abusing her and her sisters. Five days later another seven W children were also taken into care, although no charges have ever been brought.

The W children were questioned constantly. Transcripts of taped interviews show the extent to which social workers were prepared to go. Dr Bill Thompson, a criminologist at Reading University who is studying the case, said: "The questions were not only leading, but they induced certain answers. They had convinced themselves that there was something to find and they went out to prove it."

It was decided to remove the nine children from home. When social workers from Strathclyde were called in to help, they expressed doubts about the evidence. They were excluded from secret meetings and were denied information. The social workers had gone too far.

TIMETABLE OF ALLEGATIONS AND ACTIONS THAT TORE FAMILIES APART

□ June 22, 1989: Eight W children taken from home amid allegations of inter-sibling abuse. Put into care on mainland.
□ July 13: Hearing in Kirkwall decides that children should be returned to Orkney under supervision.
□ July 17: Social workers from Orkney, Highland Region and the RSSPCC hold case conference in Kirkwall where action plan is hatched and children's hearing decision ignored.
□ August: RSSPCC writes to Orkney Islands Council and Scottish secretary criticising the Reporter and panel. Allegations found not proven by Scottish Office, which re-instates Reporter.

□ March 27, 1990: Katherine Kemp, Reporter to the Children's Panel, suspended without reasons being given.
□ April 4: Mrs Kemp writes to Scottish secretary to warn him that the system in Orkney has collapsed.
□ November 1: One of the W girls taken into care.
□ November 6: Another seven W children taken into care. Social workers claim children disclosed evidence of ritualistic sex ring involving four other families and the Rev Morris MacKenzie.
□ February 27, 1991: Nine children taken from homes in South Ronaldsay.
□ April 4: The nine return home after

Sheriff David Kelbie throws out the case as "fatally flawed".
□ April 19: Ian Lang, Scottish secretary, announces full judicial enquiry.
□ April 23: Mr Lang rejects the case against Mrs Kemp and she is re-instated as Reporter.
□ August 26: Public enquiry opens in Kirkwall under Lord Clyde. finishes in May after 135 days of evidence.
□ October 27, 1992: Clyde's report concludes that those involved acted in "good faith". Orkney Islands Council accepts conclusions and promises to "rebuild bridges" with the local community. No resignations.



Grant-maintained schools. Your questions answered.

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the Department for Education has set up a special helpline for parents.
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If you'd like to know more about GM schools, don't hesitate to call.

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0800 300 777

INFORMATION APPLIES TO ENGLAND ONLY



London's CrossRail tunnel undermines the foundations of Tory support in the heart of the city

Not under my back yard...

BY TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE rich and the powerful, the great and the good, are polishing their swords to engage the government in a battle which threatens to alienate some of the Conservative Party's most influential supporters.

Every lord and lady, knight and dowager duchess, agree that the CrossRail project, designed to relieve traffic congestion and pressure on rail lines through London by boring a six-mile train tunnel beneath the heart of the capital, is a good thing. But not, thank you, in their back yard.

The scheme, which will involve many landmark buildings being demolished, threatens to affect 140 listed buildings on its route from Paddington through Mayfair to the City. More than 300 protest petitions have been lodged in Parliament. The route will run beneath Bayswater Road, Hyde Park, Park Lane, Regent Street, High Holborn, Woburn Place, Farringdon Road and Moorgate.

The Residents Association of Mayfair, whose members include members Charles Saatchi, the advertising executive, and Lord Richardson of Dunstons, a former governor of the Bank of England, is pledged to fight the proposal.

Ronald Jones, director and general manager of Claridge's, is horrified by the prospect of 100 lorries a day carrying spoil from Hanover Square, which will be used as a work site, trundling past the famous hotel. "The prospect is appalling and we will fight as hard as we can," he said.

Sir Michael Clapham, chairman of the residents' association, says British Rail and London Underground, which are responsible for the scheme, pulled a "fast one" by introducing it to Parliament under the private bill procedure, which has been discontinued in favour of a

more democratic system which allows public enquiries. "They are taking advantage of 19th century legislation to override current planning procedures and impose their scheme on 21st century London," he said.

The Theatres Trust has also joined the battle, saying that the tunnels could have a serious effect because the stalls level in most West End theatres is well below ground. They say that at most risk from disruption are the London Palladium, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's New London Theatre, the Shaftesbury, the Phoenix, the Cochrane and the Holborn Centre.

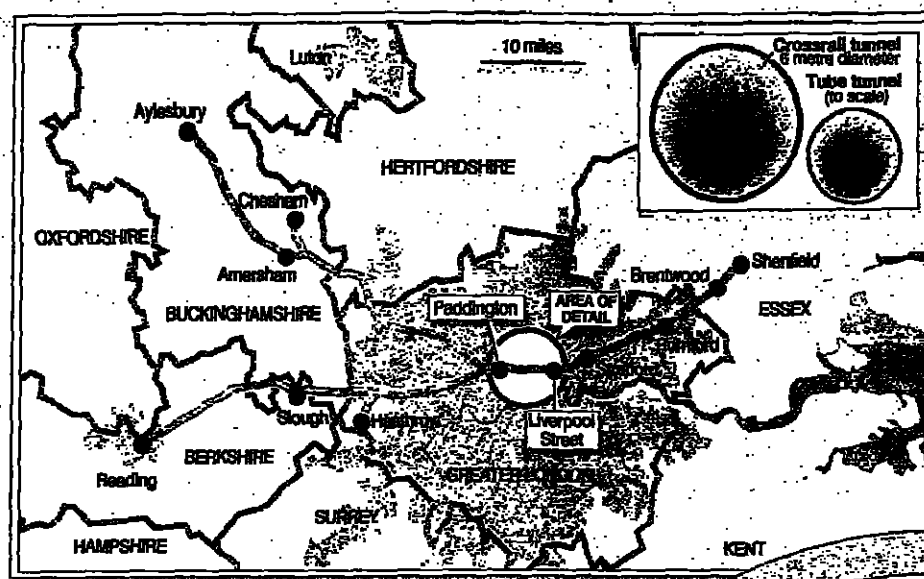
English Heritage says that the House of St Barnabas, Greek Street, which it describes as one of the best Georgian houses in London, will be at risk. Westminster council will join English Heritage in fighting the power which the private bill gives to override building consents and to alter and to demolish listed properties.

The £1.7 billion project, designed to carry 26,000 passengers east and west at peak times, threatens to disrupt for up to five years the lives of dukes and ordinary travellers.

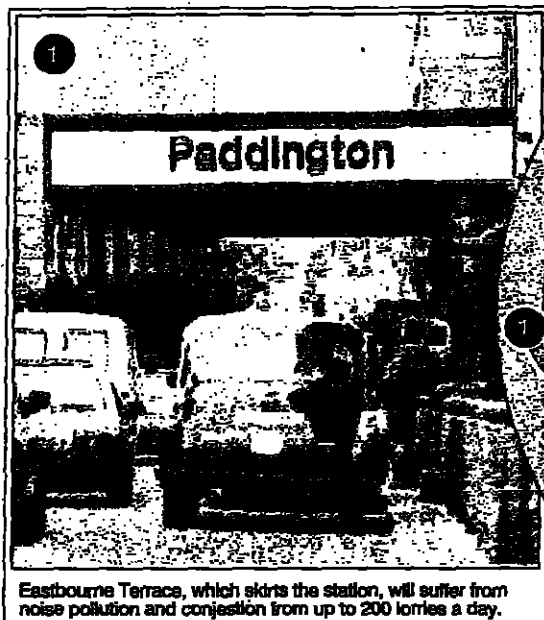
The private bill promoting CrossRail is expected to have its second reading within the next month after which it will head for the committee stage, where the protest petitions will have to be heard. The whole committee stage process is expected to take up to nine months and MPs are already said to be fighting not to be picked to serve on it.

The rail link is due to open at the turn of the century and will offer a service to travellers from Aylesbury and Reading in the west through to Stratford and Sheffield in the east. CrossRail says disruption is inevitable.

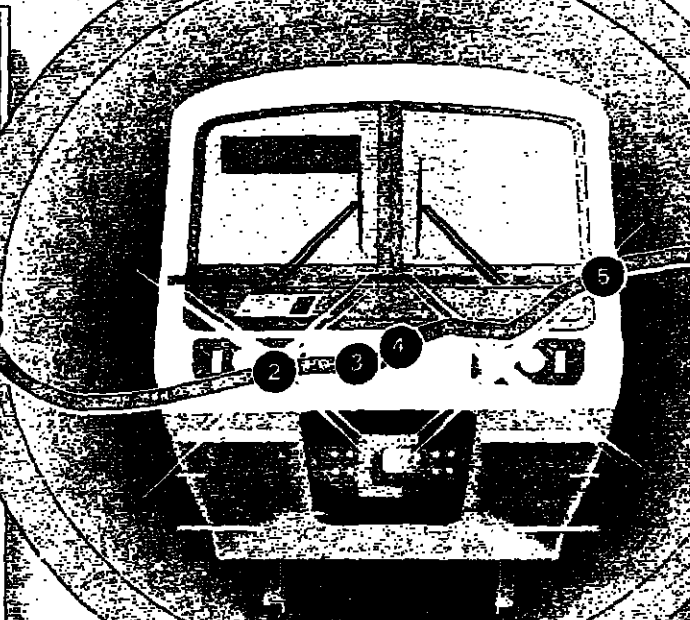
CROSSRAIL: THE PRICE TO BE PAID



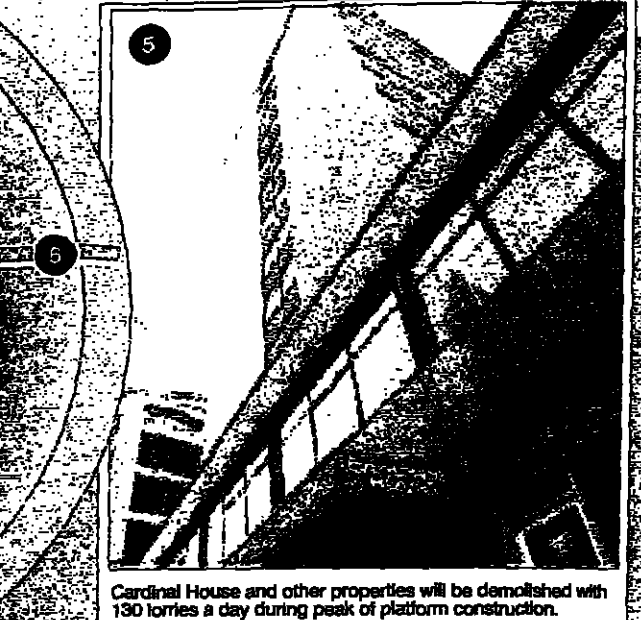
General disturbance and loss of amenity caused by the use of part of Finsbury Circus gardens as a work site for up to five years. Hoardings will reduce noise levels.



Eastbourne Terrace, which skirts the station, will suffer from noise pollution and congestion from up to 200 lorries a day.



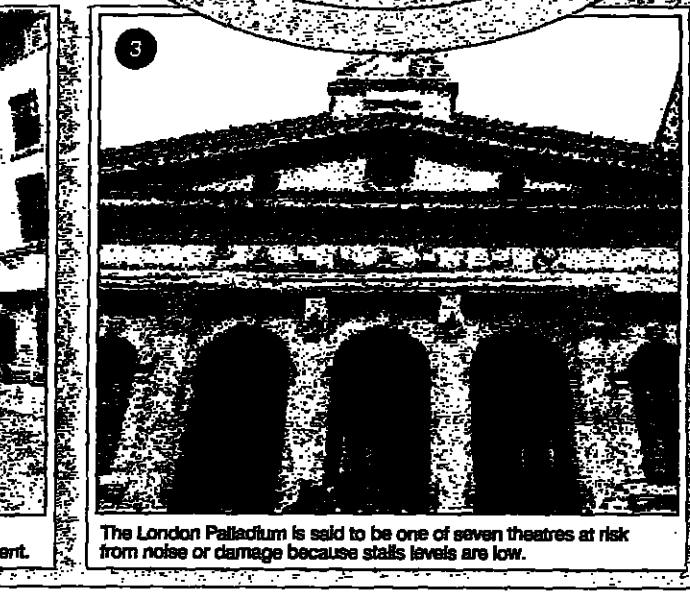
The London Palladium is said to be one of seven theatres at risk from noise or damage because stalls levels are low.



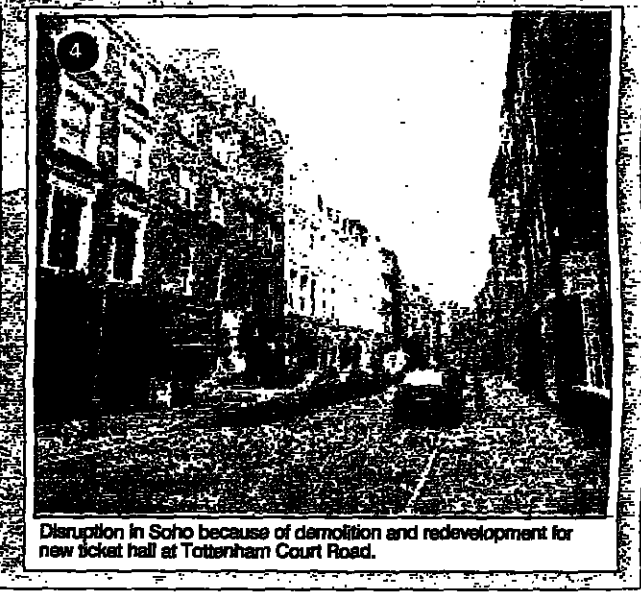
Cardinal House and other properties will be demolished with 130 lorries a day during peak of platform construction.



The Hog in the Pound pub and 27 South Molton Street, will be demolished and listed buildings specially protected from settlement.



The London Palladium is said to be one of seven theatres at risk from noise or damage because stalls levels are low.



Disruption in Soho because of demolition and redevelopment for new ticket hall at Tottenham Court Road.

Doubts on female condom

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE female condom is a welcome development but is difficult to use and unattractive, the Consumers' Association publication *Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin* reports today.

The device, marketed as Femidom by Chartex, a British company, is shaped like a male condom but is designed to line the vagina. Used only once, the female condom is claimed to be an effective contraceptive and a barrier against infection by the Aids virus.

The Consumers' Association says that efficacy is hard to judge, as only one trial has been published, involving 106 women who were monitored for 4.1 months. Seven pregnancies occurred, giving the female condom a failure rate no better than that of the male condom or the diaphragm.

Chartex claims that about two thirds of men and women find Femidom acceptable, but the *Bulletin* cites studies showing that most women who use it have found insertion difficult. In one study half stopped using the device because they found that it made intercourse unsatisfactory.

Other complainants found the condom uncomfortable, cold, noisy or "aesthetically unacceptable". Men said that they preferred it to the male condom. Breakage rates were low, at a tenth of one per cent.

Dr Joe Collier, editor of the *Bulletin*, said: "Women who want advice about Femidom should be told of the uncertainties about its use in comparison with other methods of contraception and given practical advice on how to use it."

"Women wanting to shift from the pill or the coil should be advised to experiment for a while before making the final decision."

More studies were urgently needed to show Femidom's effectiveness against conception or infection when it is bought over the counter and used with limited instructions and without a spermicide, the

Owners let homes fall into disrepair

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE number of unfit and substandard homes in Britain has risen from 900,000 in 1986 to more than 1.3 million in 1991.

The increase will be revealed in the English House Conditions Survey to be published by the environment department later this year. Housing experts said that the real figure may be higher. Nick Wilson, from the Institution of Environmental Health Officers, which represents 8,500 health officers in the public and private sector, said: "The figure is probably an underestimate, and we expect the real figure to be closer to two million."

Mr Wilson said the decline in the nation's housing stock was partly because of the increase in home-ownership. "There are many more owner-occupiers, many of whom bought under right-to-buy legislation, but others too in the private sector, who cannot budget now to include improvements and upgrading along with mortgage repayments."

Rising unemployment and

job insecurity had combined with falling house prices to make people disinclined to invest in declining assets, Mr Wilson said.

The Federation of Master Builders says that spending on repairs and maintenance has fallen from about £5 billion in the 1980s to about £3.6 billion last year.

In the public sector there has also been a decline in housing conditions because of a sharp fall in local government improvement grants, from 219,800 in 1983 to 28,200 in 1991, Mr Wilson said.

Grants distributed by the Housing Corporation, the sport's governing body, recently recognised two packs of beagles and basset-hounds that are hunting roe deer on the western fringe of Exmoor national park. Anti-hunt groups fear that the move will encourage deer-hunting with dogs in other parts of the country.

Dick Lloyd, the association's chairman, said: "It is a perfectly fair sport and the hunts are well supported, mainly on foot. It has been long estab-

Hunting Britain's smallest deer with hounds attacked as barbaric

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HUNT officials have been criticised for encouraging the chasing of roe deer, a sport that has not been pursued in Britain for more than half a century.

Anti-hunt activists regard the hunting of the deer, which is the smallest native species, as particularly barbaric. The hunters argue that they are providing a valuable service to farmers by helping to keep the rapidly increasing number of roe deer down.

The Masters of Deer Hounds Association, the sport's governing body, recently recognised two packs of beagles and basset-hounds that are hunting roe deer on the western fringe of Exmoor national park. Anti-hunt groups fear that the move will encourage deer-hunting with dogs in other parts of the country.

Dick Lloyd, the association's chairman, said: "It is a perfectly fair sport and the hunts are well supported, mainly on foot. It has been long estab-



Roe deer: hunted with beagles and bassetts

lished in France, where there are more than 70 roe deer hunting packs. The French use foxhounds, which are much bigger dogs. The roe has a low scent and is an elusive quarry which escapes as often as not.

Previously, hunting deer with dogs has been confined to the large red deer that roam Exmoor and the Quantock Hills in Somerset and the fallow deer in the New Forest in Hampshire.

Farmers, who see the deer as pests, are usually happy to

allow their land to be used by the hunts. The deer, once they have been brought to bay by the hounds, are shot at close quarters.

In the rest of the country wild deer are culled by shooting. Doreen Cronin, secretary of the Devon and Somerset Residents' Association for Deer Protection, said: "We accept the need for shooting, provided it is done by trained marksmen, but it is disgusting that hunt officials should be supporting the chasing of these tiny roe deer when public feeling against all hunting with hounds is growing."

In late 1990, members of the National Trust voted by a narrow majority to ban deer hunting on all trust land, a move that would effectively end stag hunting in the Quantocks and severely hamper it on Exmoor and in the New Forest. But the vote, in which less than 7 per cent of the trust's two million membership took part, was not binding on its ruling council.

The council played for time by setting up an expert working party to examine, among other things, the hunting

lobby's claim that if hunting were banned the deer on Exmoor and the Quantocks would suffer much worse persecution from farmers, who would shoot them because of the damage they do to crops and woodland.

The working party is expected to report in April. One of its members, Ruth Blok, who chairs the Hampshire branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said:

"There is no doubt that roe deer can do an incredible amount of damage, for example to winter fodder crops. They are by nature browsers and will take a bite out of every turnip in a field."

"Is it true that farmers tolerate deer only because they are hunted? If so, could we expect farmers to start taking pot shots at every deer they see, as they would legally be able to do, if hunting was banned? Is that what people want to see happen?"

"These are some of the questions we are trying to answer. We will make recommendations, but the final decision will rest with the National Trust's council."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pregnant woman hurt in chase

A pregnant woman was hurt after a stolen car hit a stationary taxi in a 90mph chase. She was in a Fiesta XR2 pursued by police for six miles through Bradford, West Yorkshire. After hospital treatment, she was yesterday questioned by police, as was the male driver.

The chase began on Saturday night when a couple drove off from a public house car park in the car, which police had been watching and said bore false registration plates.

A man was held after a chase across several counties ended early yesterday in a nine-car crash on the M4 near Chiswick, west London. Police used a rolling road block to slow an Audi 80 Sport driven at up to 120mph along the M4 into London. It had been reported stolen in Hampshire and was picked up by police on the M4 in Wiltshire.

Murder charge

Lee McSwan, 22, of Boscombe Down, Wiltshire, is due before magistrates at Salisbury today accused of murdering his son, Wesley Symes McSwan, five months.

Fire deaths

A woman aged 35 and her two-year-old son died when trapped upstairs in a fire at their home in west Belfast.

Rave barred

Over 40 people were arrested when police prevented a rave party at a factory unit at Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

Bolder 'five'

The £5 note is to be made more recognisable, with the "£5" in bolder colours.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond draw: £100,000, bond 2MP 233957, holder from Leicestershire (value of holding, £1,086); £50,000, 2SVL 933317, Hertfordshire (£8,930); £25,000, 28BB 534981, Essex (£10,000).

Ill-fated Morris Ital to hit the road again in China

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

UNLOVED by motorists and best relegated to the annals of British auto manufacture as the last Morris to be built, the Ital car is to be born again with a "Made in China" stamp on its unmemorable bodywork.

The Morris Ital, which disappeared in 1982, was descended from the hapless Marina, one of the cars which helped to drive the old British Leyland company to the brink of bankruptcy. But Rover has pulled off a trade coup by selling off the entire Ital assembly line to the Chengdu Automobile Factory in China's northwest Sichuan province.

While the world's car manufacturers clamour to sell exciting high technology cars

to Third World markets, Rover has been helping the Chinese build a factory which starts manufacturing the Morris Ital in the next few weeks.

The Chengdu factory will make around 2,500 Itals this year at the start of a production run expected to double in 1994. Rover has packaged all 1,300 press tools used on the Ital assembly lines at Cowley, Oxford, and shipped them to China.

The contract, understood to be worth about £1.5 million, also requires Rover to give technical assistance to help the Chinese to develop the car to run on their poor quality roads.

A team of specialists from Cowley has been in China



Unloved and unmixed: the short-lived Morris Ital

over the past year organising the assembly and positioning of the production lines. The Chinese are starting by making a pick-up van and an estate car before moving on

to the saloon, using a Chinese-made engine. About 130,000 Itals were made during a two-year production run at the plant at Cowley. It was an attempt to rescue the

Marina of the mid-1970s, which has been nominated as one of the world's worst cars with a magnificent reputation for unreliability. However, a new body style and name did not help. Inside BL, the joke was that the Ital was a Marina that worked.

Out with the Ital went the Morris badge, taken from the name of Sir William Morris, later Lord Nuffield, who started the company.

The Chinese-made Ital is not allowed to carry the historic badge, used since the first Morris Oxford in 1913, although the car will be unmistakably a Morris Ital. It will also be one of a growing band of long-gone British models resurrected around the world.

The original Austin-Morris group which became British

Leyland and then Rover has become expert at moving its old assembly lines to other countries. The Morris Oxford made at Cowley between 1948 and 1959 has resurfaced in Calcutta as the Hindustan Ambassador.

Morris's most famous car, the Minor, is being manufactured in Sri Lanka, while a glass-fibre body version of the Mini - still in production in Britain after 34 years - is made in Venezuela. The Mini Moke, the open-topped Mini made famous by *The Prisoner* television series, is made in Portugal.

The latest to leave will be the Rover Maestro assembly line, destined for Bulgaria, where former military installations will be turned into car factories to produce 46,000 Maestros a year.

JPs 'hit the better-off too hard with new pay-linked penalties'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN is growing among magistrates and their clerks that middle-income offenders are being hit excessively hard by unfair operation of the new means-related fines system in magistrates' courts. Pressure is increasing on the Home Office to review it.

Justices' clerks maintain that the scheme, which results in offenders paying hugely differing fines for the same offence because of their varying means, is not operating as intended.

Nor, the clerks say, is the scheme being run in the way that it was tested in four pilot projects in courts before the

Justices' clerks say courts are fining the middle class too heavily. They want more allowances for financial commitments

legislation, which came into force in October.

Bryan Gibson, clerk to Basingsstoke magistrates and author of the standard book *Unit Fines*, said that, as implemented by the government, courts assumed a much higher level of disposable income when fixing the fine, compared with the pilot schemes. "People on relatively modest means of £15,000 to £20,000 a year can find themselves paying very high fines - £600 or £800 for speeding, for instance," he said.

Justices' clerks are expected to propose a system of "banding" for people's allowances, so that the more an offender earned, the higher the allowances that courts would take into account when assessing weekly disposable income.

The Home Office rejected such proposals before bringing the legislation. The clerks' society is also setting up a new project in four courts to monitor the impact of the fines.

Similar concern within the 29,000-strong Magistrates' Association has led to the setting up of a working party to assess the scheme and report to the Home Office. Jane Gummer, the working party chairman, said that magistrates supported the principle of the scheme, which "must be fairer" than the old system, but needed "fine tuning".

Some of the most extreme fines, both high and low, have already hit the headlines: a pensioner had to pay £1,300 for three minor motoring offences after bumping another car and breaking his headlight, and then driving away.

A widow attacked the scheme after magistrates imposed a £30 fine on a motorist involved in a collision in which her husband was killed. The motorist was on "invaluable benefit" and put his disposable income at £3 a week.

Stephen Leslie, a barrister, said that lawyers were finding several defects in the scheme. The impact of the new fines had been heightened because on the day they came in, the maximum fine magistrates could impose doubled to £5,000. "That was a very bad miscalculation," he said.

Secondly, there was little check on the accuracy of the means form and, if people refused to fill it in, they might be fined far less than their

means would merit because some courts would just impose a low standard fine.

Thirdly, crown courts were not in the scheme, so if someone appealed, the crown court would impose a fine irrespective of means and the tables used by magistrates.

Fourthly, capital was not considered, so someone with a huge property but no income could be fined a pittance.

Fifthly, if two co-offenders committed a crime, the one less involved could end up with the higher fine.

The scheme works by calculating the seriousness of an offence in units, which are then multiplied by an offender's net disposable income.

In pilot projects, fines were far lower because the maximum income courts could use to multiply a unit was £25.



Craft class: pupils learning about rural skills as Tristan Johnson, a thatcher, prepares material for re-roofing Holywell church primary school, at Tawstock, near Barnstaple, one of only two thatched schools in Devon

Police may copy Australian pay

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE reforms in Australia could be the model for changes to British police pay and conditions, including promotion by merit instead of examinations, fixed contracts, one rank structure for civilians and police, a fast track for talented staff and pay by performance.

A member of the Home Office enquiry into police pay and conditions led by Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT Industries, is flying to Australia to examine reforms introduced in the Australian federal police and other forces. The enquiry has heard evidence from academics on police reforms in Europe and elsewhere but Australia is the only country which the team will check first hand.

Eric Caines, a member of the team and personnel director of the national health service, will make the trip to examine reforms which began five years ago. Some of the changes in Australia are unlikely to be practical in Britain, such as an end to annual pay awards, but the enquiry is interested in looking at merit pay, ending a poor promotion system and reducing the num-

ber of ranks. The Australian federal police has 2,400 officers and 690 staff. It has a headquarters in Canberra and five regional commands in a force which is 80 per cent plain clothes. It is the main investigative and intelligence unit in Australia, rather like the FBI in America.

Under the reforms the number of ranks were reduced from 11 to seven leaving constables, sergeants, inspectors, superintendents, commanders, assistant commissioners, a deputy commissioner and a commissioner. Length of service was ended as the basis of promotion or pay and there were about 10 per cent redundancies during the changes.

Since 1990 all new staff get a ten-year contract and their renewal depends on performance. Existing staff were given five-year contracts.

Pay is based on salary bands and moving up is linked to an annual appraisal. There are seven pay levels for constables and five for sergeants. In the more senior levels salary ranges allow for upward and downward movement, depending on performance.

Motorist was fined £1,328

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMPUTER analyst became one of the latest motorists to be affected by what some say is the injustice of the new system of imposing means-related fines in magistrates' courts.

He had been drinking at lunchtime during Christmas. Early that evening he was driving along the A26 with his father near Crowborough, East Sussex, and lost control of the car on a bend. It overturned but both men escaped serious injury. After a breath test, "Chris" was charged with driving with excess alcohol: he was 16 points over the legal limit.

Chris, 35, who earns £25,000 a year, decided against spending £150 on a solicitor who told him that he would be unable to do anything for him. He pleaded guilty, came before local magistrates last month and was fined £1,328, disqualified for a year and charged £30 costs.

"I accept I was in the wrong. But my criticism is that this system depends on the defendant filling in a form as to means and there seems to be no check on it. Someone else might have been less honest and then been fined a much smaller figure."

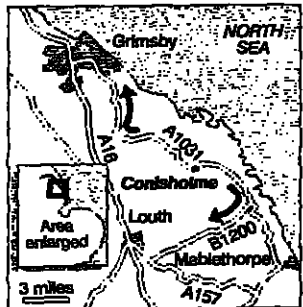
He added: "On the day I was there, no one had received the means forms so we were asked to fill them in then and there. After one minute, and with only half the form filled up, I was asked to go into court."

Village high street is 40 miles longer

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE villagers of Conisholme in Lincolnshire will today face traffic confusion worthy of the capital during a rail strike. Because of new safety rules, the half mile from one end of the main street to the other can be negotiated only by a 40-mile detour for the next two weeks.

The village bus will take up to an hour to cover what should take a minute and the only shopkeeper fear financial disaster as passing trade goes elsewhere. What is probably the longest road diversion yet comes into force this morning when contractors begin to resurface 800 metres of the



main A1031 Grimsby to Mablethorpe road where it passes through Conisholme, with its 200 souls.

Time was when workmen would have rigged up a set of traffic lights, dug up one side of the road and let drivers fight for the other. Enter the bureaucrats. New regulations stipulate that there must be a 4ft safety corridor between workmen and traffic during single-line working.

The high street of Conisholme is too narrow, so Lincolnshire highways department must close the whole roadway, and in that county's broad acres alternative arterial routes are few.

Nigel King, the Conisholme GP, said: "I'm not sure how we are going to cope, but it's going to be very difficult." His surgery is at the southern end of the 80-home village and he hopes to persuade farmers to let him use their tracks. Some have already announced they will block them to stop motorists taking short cuts. "It could take an extra hour to reach someone who is seriously ill and there is also the extra cost," Dr King said.

A county council spokesman said: "We are aware it is going to cause great problems but we have to abide by the regulations." He expects locals will use the myriad single-track lanes around the village, but the official detour must be able to handle big commercial vehicles.

The way it isn't
CRAIG BROWN



Steve Platt
Never wears a bowler hat
Nor does he root
For the pin-striped suit.

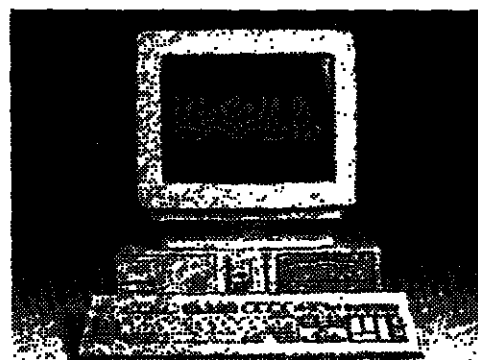
Sir Edward Heath
Takes good care of his teeth
But I doubt he'll flash 'em again
At Saddam Hussein.

Bob Dylan
Is makin' a killin'
Singin' "Don't Think
Twice, It's All Right"
At least twice a night.

Tim Yeo
Never says neo.
I suppose he calls himself
"Tim"
To avoid seeming prim.

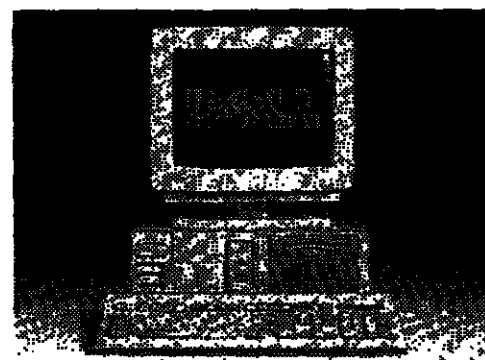
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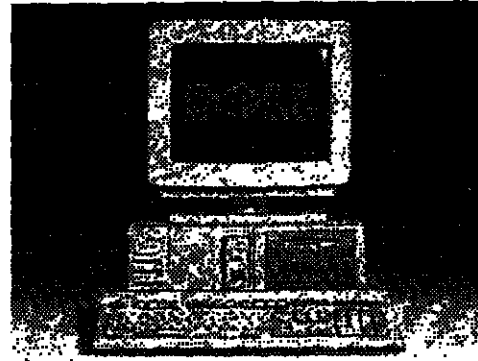
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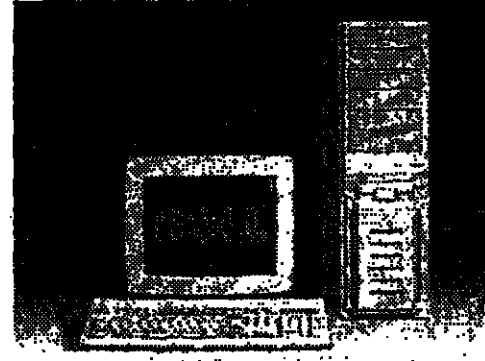
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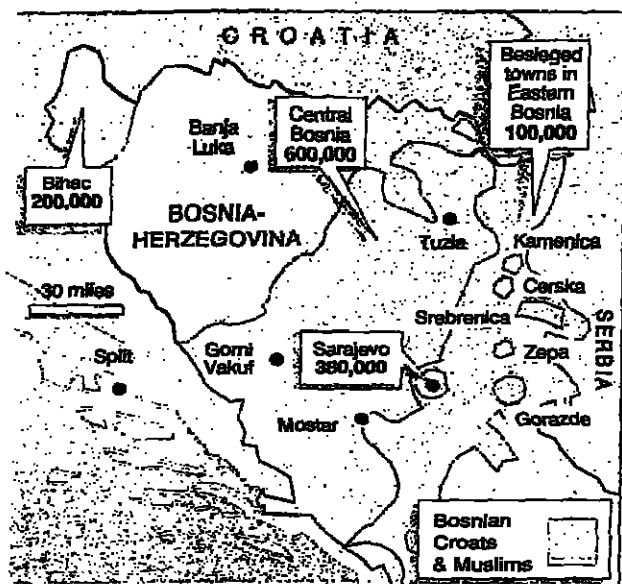
Bosnian Serb leader vows to let through aid for Muslims

FROM TIM JUDAH
IN BELGRADE

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, moved rapidly to avert a renewed bout of international opprobrium yesterday by telling United Nations refugee chiefs that his forces would not prevent aid reaching besieged Muslim enclaves.

The undertaking came as a ten-truck convoy destined for the enclave of Cerska returned to Serbia after failing to cross the lines. "The Serbs said there was fighting in the area and that they had not been informed of our arrival," said an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "The same old story I'm afraid. No food has got through to Cerska in ten months but the convoy, with a UN armoured escort, will try again today."

Jose Maria Mendiluce, the special envoy of the UNHCR, said on Friday that he was fed up with aid convoys being prevented from reaching a group of Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia. He said that he was determined to challenge obstructions thrown in the way of his deliveries and



threatened to cut off supplies to the Serbs of eastern Bosnia if aid to the enclaves did not get through.

In a telephone interview from Pale, the Bosnian Serb headquarters ten miles east of Sarajevo, Mr Karadzic said that talks yesterday morning with Mr Mendiluce had been "extremely satisfactory". Mr Karadzic said that he had told

Mr Mendiluce that his men would not prevent the aid getting through.

"It is in our best interests to get the convoys through, both politically and militarily," said Mr Karadzic. "Politically because then we cannot be blamed for stopping them and militarily because the Muslims fight more savagely when they are hungry." Mr

Karadzic also said that the reason for the recent ban on foreign correspondents entering Bosnian Serb territory was only to last while lists of undesirable or "unobjective" correspondents were being prepared.

Mr Karadzic's professed desire to get food to the Muslims his troops are besieging came as part of a grotesque diplomatic and propaganda game being played with the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. On Thursday the Sarajevo authorities grabbed headlines across the world as they proclaimed that they would not distribute international humanitarian food aid flown into the Bosnian capital.

The airbridge has now been halted as piles of aid lie undistributed in Sarajevo warehouses but the less glamorous UNHCR truck run from Belgrade to Sarajevo, passing through Bosnian Serb-held territory, continued yesterday as usual.

Bernard Kouchner, France's intrepid Minister of Humanitarian Action met Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic yesterday in an attempt to get him to call off the Sarajevo "hunger strike".



Family of war: the family of a Bosnian soldier mourning at his funeral in Sarajevo, where fighting was said to be continuing yesterday. The Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency, quoting Serb military sources, said heavy

fighting continued on the main Bosnian war fronts, including Sarajevo and around Gorazde, in the east, where Muslim forces were said to have launched a new offensive towards Cernice, on the border with Montenegro. Croat and Serb secessionist forces continued to trade artillery fire around Zadar, along southwest Croatia's Adriatic coast, military sources said. Shelling was also reported near Sibenik and Split. (AFP)

City's hunger strike is only weapon left

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

SARAJEVO, a city under siege and torn apart by civil war, is on hunger strike. The move, on the face of it absurd even by the surreal standards of former Yugoslavia, is seen here as a perfectly rational protest against the United Nations' failure to deal with the ethnic cleansing through starvation of thousands of Muslims in the eastern parts of Bosnia.

"There is nothing else we can do," said Gordana Kuzovic, political editor of *Oslobodjenje*, Sarajevo's still publishing daily newspaper. She said that like prisoners in a jail, they have no other means to coerce the UN into getting food to communities besieged by rebel Serbs in eastern Bosnia.

Many people in Sarajevo and in government-held Bosnia feel betrayed by the UN because security council resolutions authorizing the use of force in delivering relief aid were never put in to practice on the ground.

There is widespread distrust of the United Nations because of the disparity between the rhetoric and action of the security council and leading Western countries. Sarajevans feel they were duped into believing that help was on the way.

Additionally, there is suspicion about why Sarajevo, the focus of international media attention, receives several convoys and 20 plane loads of relief supplies each day while all of eastern Bosnia gets only one convoy every three to six

weeks. Most Sarajevo residents are still in disbelief that a well-equipped army representing the international community is reliant upon the good will of the same rebel Serbs that have been generally condemned as the perpetrators of war crimes. That the rebel Serbs, who are besieging cities and targeting civilians with snipers and artillery, would also co-operate in bringing them food and medicine is almost too far-fetched to be believed.

Last week's decision by the Sarajevo city council to refuse further UN relief aid until the organization follows through on earlier pledges to help the starving thousands in eastern Bosnia appears to be widely supported by the capital's residents, at least for the moment.

"We have food and those people over there are starving," said Jasna Jorguncic, 29, while on her monthly shopping trip to the city's main market place with her husband. "We hope this will force (the UN) to do something different. We have had enough of asking the Serbs' permission to let the convoys through."

Though the strike is likely to be short-lived — probably no more than a week or two — it is an enormous sacrifice for the people inside the besieged city. It belies the horror with which residents have watched UN inaction and ineptitude while men, women and children die of hunger and neglect in the east of the republic.

Lithuania expected to pick former communist

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN MOSCOW

LITHUANIANS went to the polls yesterday in presidential elections that were expected to be won by Algirdas Brazauskas, the former communist and victor of October's parliamentary elections.

Surveys showed Mr Brazauskas some ten percentage points ahead of Stasys Lozoraitis, an émigré for 50 years. Most Lithuanians seem to see him as the best man to deal with the economic crisis. Mr Lozoraitis, 66, was for many of the years under Soviet rule, the main representative of the pre-1940 Lithuanian republic, as ambassador to the Vatican and the United States.

Both candidates are firmly committed to free-market economics, but Mr Brazauskas, leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Labour party, has promised a more measured pace of reform, and Mr Lozoraitis has claimed that he still backs state economic control.

Mr Lozoraitis's other main weapon is that Mr Brazauskas was a senior official under Soviet rule — but this seems to cut little ice with Lithuanians. Mr Brazauskas has argued that compromises were necessary to protect Lithuania's interests, a line that most people accept. Some people believe that Mr Lozoraitis can bring Western expertise, but others see him as out of touch.

Yeltsin is facing a fresh challenge

FROM AFP
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin faces a stern challenge this week from a resurgent communist party. Key leaders of the failed August 1991 coup were treated to a hero's welcome at a "restoration" congress of the former communist party.

About 700 delegates gathered at a health resort near



Yeltsin: court reversed his ban on former party

Moscow, giving a standing ovation to seven of the 12 men accused of plotting to oust Mikhail Gorbachev.

About 450,000 former communist party members have re-registered since December, when the Constitutional Court reversed the party's abolition by Mr Yeltsin, making it Russia's strongest single opposition bloc.



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مَكْنَزَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

Perhaps the most powerful weapon in Tyson's defence is his new attorney, Alan Dershowitz, the theatrical, high-profile celebrity lawyer who has spent the past year campaigning vigorously on Tyson's behalf in the media, thus ensuring that today's appeal will be heard initially in Indianapolis but principally in the court of public opinion. Mr Dershowitz has just one hour to make his case, and his argument will focus on the behaviour of two women: Judge Patricia Gifford, who presided at the first trial, and Desiree Washington, the high school beauty queen whom Tyson was found guilty of raping at the

"She was presented at the trial as a young, sexually-inexperienced woman with

Mr Dershowitz's exertions on television chat shows may have little effect on Indiana's appeal court, but his counter-charges against Ms Washington have planted serious doubts about the conviction in

**Judge Clarence Thomas of
Advances**

essor beats up the woman, final evidence of his violent nature, from one point of view; an understandable and deserved response to a cynically manipulative woman, from another.

On the night that I saw *Oleanna*, many in the audience broke into spontaneous shouts of approval as the female character was hurled to the floor, punched and abused; others sat tight-lipped and furious. Hours after the end of the performance, knots of people were still standing and arguing in the snowy New York street outside the theatre. Women, in almost every case, took one side, and men the other.

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

In addition to sympathy for the plight of the 396 remaining exiles in Lebanon, the 1.8 million Arab inhabitants are seething because of increased violence that has led to a rise in the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces. However, what is likely to determine the success of Mr Christopher's mission is the stand of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

The new president aims to sell America a message diametrically opposite to Mr Reagan's. He must persuade the country to abandon its Pavlovian hostility to any form of new taxation and its addiction to instant economic gratification. He will propose as much as \$250 billion in new taxes over the next four years combined with deep cuts in his social programmes that his own party has long considered sacrosanct. The package will be mitigated only by a largely-

Stephanopoulos: must go directly to the people

William Rees-Mogg, page 14



BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

President Saddam, meanwhile, praised President Clinton's opposition to the Vietnam War and urged him to display similar "strength" in dealing with Iraq. He made the comment in weekend discussions with Ramsey Clark, the former US attorney-general, a vocal opponent of the Gulf War.

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN ALGIERS

The kasbah has become a virtual no-go area for the police, who are afraid of being ambushed in the maze of crumbling streets. According to official figures, 250 police officers have been killed in Algeria by Islamic activists over the past 12 months. Western diplomats say the figure may be closer to 500.

1 year. 1 dollar 15.

The unrest was sparked off by the army's decision to call off elections in January last year to prevent an Islamic fundamentalist victory. But a year on, the outwaded fundamentalist party, Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), continues to enjoy widespread popular support. In areas such as the kasbah, "Long Live FIS" is

The struggle between the army and Islamic militants in Algeria is being closely followed by other countries in North Africa, which have trouble with their fundamentalist movements. The fall of Algeria, the largest country in the region, to the fundamentalists would have wide-ranging repercussions across the Middle

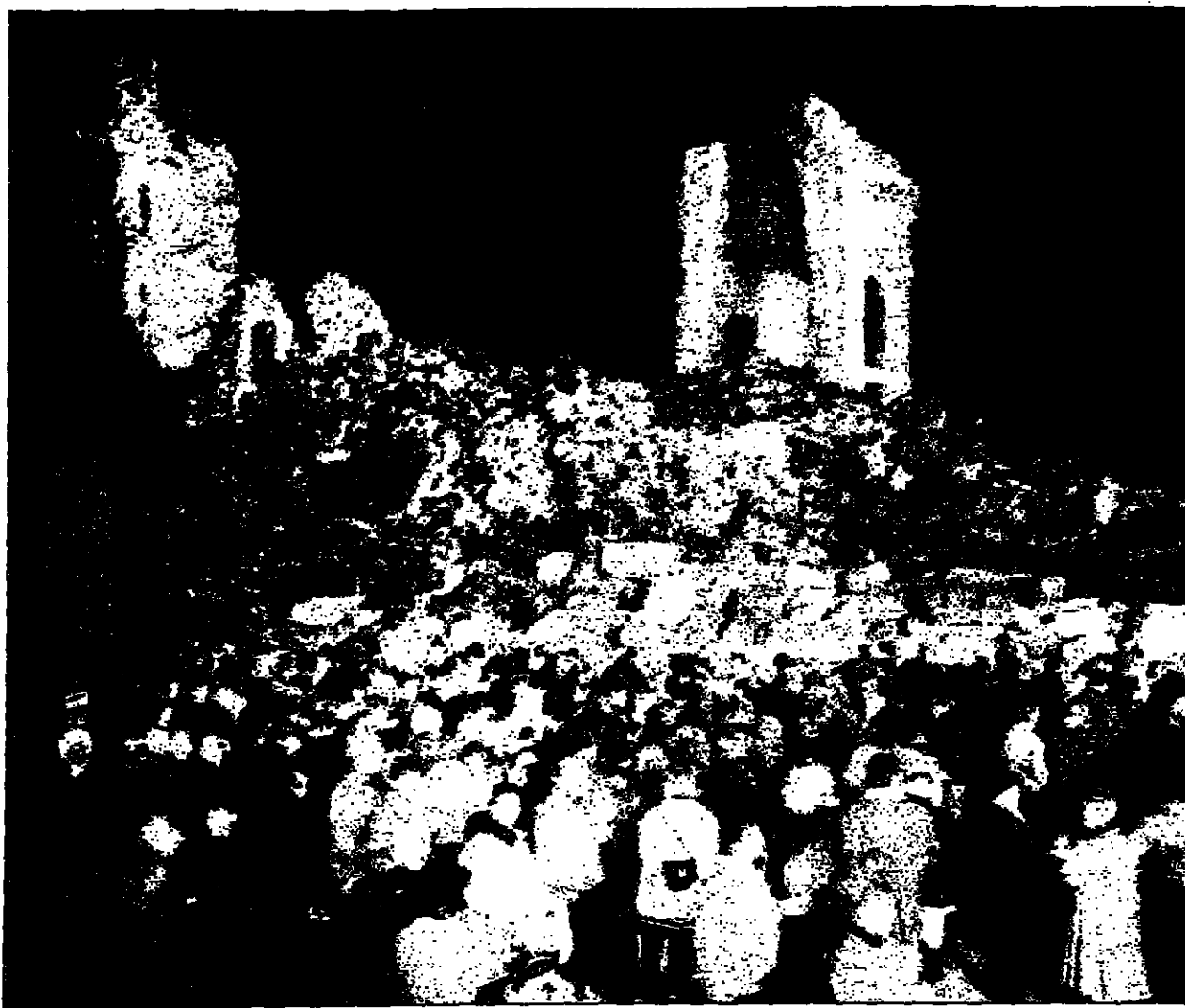
Volcano alert

Legaspi: Armed police forcibly evacuated about 300 villagers from their homes and farms near the crater of the Mayon volcano in the Philippines as experts warned that lava appeared to be nearing the

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number of rooms available at these promotions per adult on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis, and cannot be used in conjunction with any of our other offers. Bathrooms are not available at the Regent Palace.

rates. All details correct at time of publication. Offer based on 2 people sharing a twin or double room only. No car offer. Bookings must be made by 18th February 1993. Hotel.



A city remembers: crowds gathering at the weekend in front of the ruin of the Frauenkirche in Dresden for an annual memorial ceremony to mark the destruction of the German city in allied air raids 48 years ago

Bundestag presses for extension of citizenship rights

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN BONN

AFTER years of opposition to dual citizenship and any dilution of German race laws, all parties in the Bundestag are now proposing changes in the law to allow more immigrants to become German citizens.

This step, flying in the face of long-held beliefs about the uniqueness of the German people, is seen as an urgent way of reducing racism, integrating almost six million foreigners living in the country, acknowledging a multicultural society and bringing the law up to date to conform with the more liberal practices in neighbouring European Community countries.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, last week let it be known privately for the first time that he would support a change to allow more German-born Turks — whom he described

■ Racist attacks have blighted reunited Germany. Bonn now sees the assimilation of immigrants as an urgent remedy

as upright and decent people wanting to join the society they had grown up in — to become full German citizens. The Greens have launched a petition for dual nationality to be allowed and naturalisation procedures to be expedited.

The rules for granting immigrants citizenship are among the most restrictive in Europe, and are still based on a 1913 law embracing the notion of the German race being united by blood rather than territory. Thus the constitution guarantees automatic citizenship to "residents" — people of German origin whose ancestors moved to Russia, Romania or elsewhere in East Europe often more than 100 years ago — but it does not acknowledge anyone born on German soil as automatically German.

Despite calls by immigrants, Bonn has been reluctant to make naturalisation easier, although with 7.3 per cent of the population now classified as "foreigners", Germany has a larger alien population than most other EC countries. A quarter of these come from other EC states, a third from Turkey, and about 13 per cent from former Yugoslavia.

Between 1977 and 1990 only 615,000 people were granted citizenship; of these, 404,000 were those with a constitutional claim, overwhelmingly the "resettlers" from Romania and Russia. In theory, others who have lived in Germany from 10-12 years can apply for naturalisation. But this is granted to only about 10,000 people a year, and only after exhaustive tests to show their loyalty to the state, belief in democracy, knowledge of German language and history, and cultural integration. Some bureaucrats have even used trivial offences such as parking fines to prove the applicant was not of good character and should therefore be denied citizenship. In the face of domestic and international criticism of the unclear status of a generation of "foreigners", the aliens commissioner recently called

for changes in the law to speed up naturalisation, and suggested that Bonn would, one day agree to dual citizenship.

The opposition Social Democrats have long called for Germany to be brought into line with British or even French law, which gives anyone born in France the right to citizenship at 18. But German conservatives insist that this would spark off racist resentment, and that Germany is not a country of immigration. Herr Kohl has recently taken a softer line.

The concept of "German stock" based on notions of race was elaborated in 1913 to apply to those who shared German blood, linguistic and cultural affinity. The Nazis took the principle to the extreme, but after the war the notion survived. German conservatives say that in the developing European Community the notion of race has less relevance; nevertheless, they oppose any dilution of the "ius sanguinis" (blood right). Proposals for change have come only after many criticised the racism in the law, noting that foreigners will never be integrated in German society if they cannot share in its duties. Politicians have also acknowledged that unless foreigners have the vote, there will never be a political need for deputies to court their views. The government now proposes shortening the necessary stay in Germany to eight years.



Kohl: supportive of German-born Turks

Milanese courts vow 'week of fire'

FROM PHILIP WILLAN
IN ROME

MILAN magistrates have promised another "week of fire" after their investigations into political corruption prompted the resignation of Claudio Martelli, the justice minister, and Bettino Craxi, the Socialist party secretary.

Paolo Cirino Pomicino, a Christian Democrat and budget minister until last year, yesterday underwent a voluntary hour-long interrogation. He is under investigation in connection with illegal kick-backs allegedly paid on modernisation work for the southeastern port of Manfredonia.

Gabriele Cagliari, chairman of ENI, the state energy company, was warned that he was under investigation for alleged embezzlement in connection with the acquisition of Enimont, a short-lived joint venture with the private sector.

The ever-expanding scandal has given rise to concern that Italy's business and political establishment is heading for paralysis. There is a growing call for swift electoral reform so that a new parliament can seek a political solution to the misdemeanours of its predecessors.

"We are living through one of the gravest and most troubled periods of our democracy," said Nicola Mancino, the interior minister. "A grave economic crisis is being aggravated by the inertia produced by the moral question. Public administration is blocked and the administrators are terrified."

The Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* said yesterday in an editorial: "At every new entry into the arena of the enquiry the public has applauded. But day after day the arena has filled until those under investigation have crowded into the stands, blending in with the spectators. Now the gravity and diffusion of the cancer leave us breathless."

Piero Pajardi, president of the Milan appeal court, commented: "People realise the risk of decapitating the institutional and business worlds. The power vacuum is likely to be filled with people lacking any experience, glorified simply because they are new."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spain hunts Turkish drug gang

Madrid: Spanish police claimed they had seized one of the biggest hauls of pure heroin in Europe at the weekend and are now hunting a Turkish gang. The drug, with a market value of about £25 million pounds, would have "inundated" the Spanish market, police said (Edward Owen writes).

The 282lbs, in small sacks, was found in dustbins behind a villa owned by gypsies in Malaga. Three gypsies detained police were said to be responsible for storage and distribution of the drug.

Vassiliou tipped

Nicosia: President Vassiliou was tipped to win a second five-year term as Greek Cypriot polls closed. He campaigned on a platform of support for a United Nations plan to end the 19-year division of the island.

Honecker aid

Bonn: Erich Honecker, the former East German leader in exile in Chile, receives financial help from donors including Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, his lawyer told *Volksstimme am Sonntag*. (Reuters)

Fighting crime

Moscow: Elite troops from the Russian interior ministry have been enlisted in the fight against organised crime. President Yeltsin has declared corruption and crime Russia's main problem. (Reuters)

Drivers taxed

Bonn: A motorway fee that Bonn may introduce should be slapped on foreigners only, Björn Engholm, opposition Social Democrat leader, said. (Reuters)

Hump backed

Marseilles: French farmers paraded four dromedaries through Avignon to protest against Moroccan tomato

Mitterrand gambles on Fréjus

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

WITH scandal continuing to plague the French parliamentary election campaign, President Mitterrand unveils the nation's memorial to its Indochina war dead tomorrow and will use the occasion for another manoeuvre to unsettle the conservatives who expect to take over his government.

The remains of 24,000 military and 3,000 civilians killed in the colonial war of four decades ago lie buried in the memorial ground overlooking the Mediterranean at Fréjus. They were taken there after exhumation at Dien Bien Phu and the other battlefields of Southeast Asia. Most of the French forces passed through the Fréjus camp on their way to the war.

The ceremony, only days after Mitterrand's trip to

marks an act of healing comparable with, though less traumatic than, the opening of the Vietnam memorial in Washington in 1982.

Coming five weeks before elections which are expected to rout his socialist government, Mitterrand's day in Fréjus is being seen as a ploy to anoint François Léotard, the town's mayor and a popular figure in the centre-right UDF grouping of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. M Léotard, 50, who served as culture minister during the centre-right "cohabitation" government in the mid-1980s, gets on well with the president. Supporters see him as a potential choice when Mitterrand appoints a prime minister, especially if the UDF does as well or better than the RPR, its Gaullist

Such a choice could open a new government to ecologists and centrists and would amount to "the worst of poisoned gifts", as *Le Monde* put it, to the main parties' ambitious leaders and eternal rivals, M Giscard d'Estaing and Jacques Chirac.

There is a complication. M Léotard has just rejoined the political scene after being cleared of corruption charges on technical grounds. Although the judges said more charges were possible, he resumed his mayoral office on Saturday. By dropping in on the town hall, Mitterrand not only gives M Léotard heavy publicity, but puts the spotlight on a case embarrassing to the opposition at a time when Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, and other senior socialists are tainted

You're not dreaming, this



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De Klerk and ANC seek to defuse power-sharing row

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

BOTH the South African government and the African National Congress were making strenuous efforts yesterday to contain a row that erupted over their power-sharing deal which threatens to torpedo full-scale constitutional negotiations even before they resume.

President de Klerk denied, in an interview with the BBC, that the government had entered into any agreement with the ANC to share power for five years after elections in the interests of national stability. He insisted that any such pact would have to be ratified at multiparty talks.

His statement followed a furious outburst by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, who said it would require the combined might of the South African Defence Force and the ANC's armed wing, Umkonto we Sizwe, to enforce compliance in the KwaZulu homeland and Natal province.

The government is due to meet Inkatha for two days of talks this week in an effort to set up a multiparty planning

■ Last week's agreement for an interim government has angered Chief Buthelezi. His wrath threatens to torpedo multiparty talks

conference for the resumption of constitutional negotiations. A meeting tomorrow in Johannesburg of the ANC's national executive committee threatens to be equally stormy. ANC hardliners are accusing their negotiators of selling out to the National Party.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader, declared at a banquet on Saturday night that there had been no secret deal or pact with the government. He said: "An interim government of national unity is not power-sharing. What the government has proposed is a form of power-sharing. The ANC, on the other hand, proposes an interim government of national unity which would include those parties that have won a certain proportion of seats in a constituent assembly."

The agreement announced by the government and the ANC on Friday after two months of private, bilateral meetings, provides for five years of joint rule by the most

powerful parties after the country's first non-racial election which is expected to be held by mid-1994. The proposal will be put to the multiparty constitutional talks due to resume next month.

The deal was cautiously welcomed yesterday by leading newspapers. In an editorial, the Johannesburg *Sunday Star* said: "Five years of power-sharing after the first election is just what the country needs to soften the pain of four apartheid decades and create a climate for peace." It added that the government and the ANC should not allow the issue of power-sharing to divert them from the immediate goal of stability and peace.

The mass-circulation Johannesburg *Sunday Times* concluded: "South African democracy now lies less in the hands of political leaders than in the laps of the gods. Transition is certain, but transition to what?"

Chief Buthelezi said there was "no possibility whatsoever"

that Inkatha, the KwaZulu homeland government or the people of KwaZulu and Natal would accept the deal. "The government and the ANC/SACP alliance are now dangerously toying with all our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren," he said.

Ferdinand Hartzenberg, deputy leader of the right-wing Conservative party, said: "The ANC now has everything it wanted. The government has totally capitulated."

□ **Lesotho:** Heavy fighting raged yesterday between government and rebel forces in the centre of Maseru, Angola's second city, sources close to the Angolan army command said. The army and Jonas Savimbi's Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) have been battling for control of the city for more than a month.

On Saturday Unita announced that the town of Waku Kungu, 65 miles north of Huambo, had come under fire from government forces. The army source also claimed that the whole family of Marcolino Moco, the prime minister who is from Huambo, had been "murdered" by Unita forces. (AFP)

Zairean forces hold town to ransom

FROM SAM KILEY
IN GOMA, ZAIRE

ZAIREAN businessmen and professionals in Goma have spent a frantic weekend trying to raise billions of zaires to pay the local military and gendarme garrisons so that they will not fulfil their threat to "tear the town apart".

The spectre of what could happen if the Rotary Club and other organisations do not manage to find the required 560 billion zaires (£140,000) by tomorrow haunts the city, so much so that the governor of North Kivu province fled his post in the east for the capital, Kinshasa, yesterday.

On Thursday last week Colonel Mbala, the commander of the gendarmes in Goma, delivered a simple ultimatum to the business community: "Either you pay or you get killed or looted."

Christian De Winter, director of an airfreight company in Goma, said: "Since all the businesses have already been wrecked and there is nothing left to steal, that meant only one thing, our residences and ourselves will be next."

On December 23, three waves of looters — troops, gendarmes and civilians — destroyed the town centre and halted economic activity in a 24-hour orgy of plunder. Even the local prison was destroyed. The looting was sparked by the military, who had received only half their pay. Like the people they stole from, they were victims of the economic and administrative paralysis caused by the deadlock in the battle for power between President Mobutu and the head of the opposition, Etienne Tshisekedi.

By the end of Saturday, 220 billion zaires in "small" denomination notes of one million and under had been collected and stacked in the Commercial bank of Zaire in Goma. It will be exchanged for the worthless five million zaire notes introduced by Mr Mobutu last month and be used to pay the army.

Some business leaders in Goma think that although they are short of 340 billion zaires, they may have bought time to save the town for a week, but most are pessimistic. "We have found some money to pay the army for January," said Mr De Winter, "but February's pay day comes up in a week and we have nothing left. What happens then? We are being held like hostages."



Staff of life: nurses giving Hawo Mumin Muse, 2, medicine at a feeding centre in Mogadishu, where Nigerian UN troops are replacing American soldiers

CIA tracks suspect in desert

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A MANHUNT is under way in the Pakistani desert state of Baluchistan for the prime suspect in the murder of two officials of the Central Intelligence Agency in suburban Washington three weeks ago.

Mr Aimal Kans, 28, a Pathan, shipped out of the United States after allegedly killing the two men outside the CIA headquarters in Virginia. He has been charged in the America with murder.

Mr Kans spent a week at home in the Baluchistan capital of Quetta before disappearing last Sunday. Tracking him down will be difficult, given the reluctance of Pakistan's tribes to hand over a fellow tribesman to outsiders.

The terrain around Quetta, rugged and unpolluted, is home to gangs smuggling arms and heroin across the Afghan border. It would be easy for a local person to claim tribal protection and disappear. The motive for the killing is a mystery. Pathans have a ruthless code of honour which requires revenge to be exacted even if it takes several generations to do it.

CIA agents were active in Quetta when the Soviet Union was fighting for control of Afghanistan, turning it into a city of spies and intrigue. It was one of two main centres from which the Afghan guerrillas took delivery of CIA-supplied weapons. Mr Kans

was involved in the operation and would have come into contact with CIA agents.

Mr Kans has the same family name as Gul Hasan Kans, a member of the martial law cabinet of President Zia, the late Pakistani dictator. Gul Hasan Kans was assassinated in 1984, allegedly by the CIA. Pakistani officials said there was no political motive, describing the killing as a family dispute.

□ **Ceasefire agreed:** A retired Pakistani general has negotiated a tenuous ceasefire in the Afghan capital, Kabul, which has been under fire for four weeks. The country is slipping into civil war and the peace is not expected to last.

Big Mac spearheads a capitalist invasion

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

COCA-COLA is already coming to India, half the country's youth are obsessed by gyrating girls on MTV and the newly-arrived BBC is squeezing the life out of state-run television. Now McDonald's is joining the cultural invasion.

The Big Mac will have to be Indianised: Hindus do not eat beef. A pork burger would upset Muslims. A buffalo burger? But buffalo meat has an eye-wateringly strong taste and is so tough that pet dogs walk away defeated. Chicken and mutton

will probably dominate the menu. McDonald's dainty French fries will seem novel to people accustomed to huge greasy chips, black with age, which are standard fare at the nation's roadside dhabas (cafes).

McDonald's says it will invest \$20 million (£15.5 million) in the next seven years. Economic liberalisation is revolutionising India. The cellular telephone will soon arrive, having already contaminated most of the rest of Asia.

Imported washing ma-

chines are making the traditional dhoti (washerman) an endangered species. This will, however, lead to a reduction in the nation's clothing bill: dhotis specialise in destroying shirts.

Benetton has arrived, with big glass shopfronts and shiny floors. There is something absurd about buying jeans that were made in India, sent to America and reimported. But the right label matters to the yuppies, even if the same product is available at the local market ten times cheaper.

Indians are becoming obsessed with gadgets. It will gladden the nation to have heard that import duties have been cut from 255 to 150 per cent on a range of items including fax machines, compact disc players, food mixers and hair dryers. □ **Paris:** McDonald's France has confirmed that it plans to put one of its fast-food restaurants at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. Jean Tiberi, an assistant to Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, had said the city was "utterly opposed" to the idea. (AFP)

night flights will follow in the Spring.

For more information, just call 0345 222111 or your travel agent.

And don't let the bed bugs bite.

with which the programme had been selected and the performance carried out.

Behind every successful career woman there usually stands another woman, the nanny. Valerie Grove reports



Fine line: department class at Shellagh Roth's school for English-style nannies in Cleveland, Ohio. For women, equal opportunity means nothing unless childcare is available

Mothers, fathers and minders

Ms Grove, we would like to offer you this job — but I understand you have four school-age children. How do you propose to look after them?

No editor has ever asked me this question, any more than men are ever asked how they can work and be fathers too. Men are assumed to have wives at home, taking care of all that women with children are assumed to be managing somehow.

The true question raised by the political face of Bill Clinton's "Nannygate", now apparently resolved by his nominating a pipe-smoking, childless spinster as attorney-general, is not illegal immigration into the United States, but the much more universal matter of who looks after the children. It is a fundamental question which men, and male-dominated governments, choose to ignore.

It makes a nonsense of initiatives such as Opportunity 2000, which are supposed to propel women through glass

ceilings into management and boardroom when, in order to return to work at all, they have to arrange childcare with none of the support or perks which boardroom-bound men expect to ease their way — secretaries to dial their expense-account lunch appointments, chauffeurs to glide through traffic. Play the sex-reversal game: if fathers could not return to work without finding a child-minder first, would not the child-minder be tax-deductible? What man would be content to pay a third of his taxed income for a nanny, and then pay the nanny's tax on top of that?

Yet that is the reality for women: a mother who earns, and pays another, is taxed twice over. No wonder so many hand their child-minders cash so they can shelter under the black-economy umbrella.

So the scandal of Mr Clinton's two aspiring attorneys-general, though focused on illegal immigrants, underlined a bald fact — that equality of opportunity is non-



Tea time: Roth students get to grips with their subject

sense unless childcare is available. It should be above board and a legitimate expense. Company cars get regular recognition in the Budget; childcare — other than "workplace nurseries", which are largely irrelevant — does not.

Successive Chancellors have ignored the essential priority of childcare if women are to use their education and talents. Teresa Gorman proposed, two years ago, a bill to enable women working outside the home — that is, the majority — to be able to deduct a range of domestic services as tax deductible: to no avail.

Crèches and workplace nurseries are not the answer. They may be a temporary convenience — you can dump a small baby anywhere for a short time — but children are for life, and they get more, not less, demanding as they get older. The school day finishes in the middle of the afternoon. (I once had three different schools to collect from, which finished rigidly at 3.05, 3.15 and 3.20; while my sister, a publisher in Australia, has always managed without help because her daughter's school stays open until 6pm.)

Women heading for top jobs such as attorney-generalship need to work men's hours, and men regard staying late as a badge of indispensability. In a Radio 4 programme on fatherhood last week, I at last heard a father admit that he stayed late at work "to avoid

the bathtime and bedtime scene". But someone has to do it. Children aged five to 18 need someone to listen, read, supervise homework, chauffeur them about, and just be there.

So if she is to work with a man's commitment, the woman has to replace herself at home, which means: an pairs or nannies. The ghostly word nanny is redolent of the Victorian idle rich, who handed the entire maternal burden to a rustic girl who would live in the attic for £10 a year and a half-day off every other Sunday. Today, ten pages of nanny ads in *The Lady* every week reflect how many women (doctors, barristers, BBC producers — all it seems, with "chaotic but happy" households) seek a non-smoking, car-driving, child-and-dog-loving paragon who will cost them — though wages are coyly withheld — at least £10,000 a year.

When Lady Howe produced her Hansard Society report on

Women at the Top in 1990, point number three in her list of Barriers to Equality for Women was "the absence of proper childcare provision". Lady Howe's simple suggestion was that a proportion of childcare costs should be deductible against income, of up to £1,200 for one child, £2,400 for two.

A sensible, moderate and

very modest proposal, applauded at the time. A leader in *The Independent* said: "I hope ironically, 'strictly adequate' childcare is at least as essential as the 'executive's chauffeur'. Three years later there is no sign of any such concession. I am allowed to deduct the cost of petrol and paperclips and picnic frames for my office at home, for tax purposes — but not the infinitely more vital expense of having my children supervised responsibly in my absence.

If the last four Chancellors of the Exchequer had had working wives, they might not have clung to the old-fashioned view that women who "choose" to work must sort things out for themselves, and not whinge or fuss about it. The first advice women get on returning to work after motherhood is to keep domestic problems concealed. "If you're late, always give a man's excuse — say your car broke down, never say the child is ill or the nanny didn't show up."

When Zoe Baird, Mr Clinton's first choice for attorney-general, protested that she had just been struggling along when she employed her illegal babysitter — "I didn't think, then, that one day I would be attorney-general" — one could sympathise. A returning-to-work mother clutches — at straws. My first nanny (£15 cash in the hand in 1976) stayed precisely two weeks. The next nanny has stayed ever since 17 years this year. So we are getting into pension schemes for the nanny. But no employer has ever inquired me about who looked after my children: the assumption is that we find a way, without help or financial concession.

While researching a book about women who had succeeded in careers while raising families, I read the whole of *Who's Who*, which does not take long if you are looking only for women with children. The volume, begun with a bishop and ended with an academic, both fathers of five. But almost all the women who made it into *Who's Who* were

unmarried and childless like Janet Reno, the likely new American attorney-general. After the married women were unlisted in the professions, and barred from civil service and teaching, until well into this century. As late as 1954, Mary Warnock was the first married woman fellow of her Oxford college. Women either gave up work on marriage, or married the job.

President Clinton has discovered that behind every successful woman there must be another woman — especially in the legal profession, with its inescapable demands of time and place. Barbara Mills, our first woman director of public prosecutions, never stopped practising law despite four children. "You have to be at the Old Bailey at 10am with your head screwed on to your shoulders and quite unemotional, and if your child is being operated on that day that is just plain luck," she once told me.

She had five nannies in all. If you include the one who kept saying, "That's not my job" and lasted only three weeks. The Mills' nanny was expected to be competent enough to run a neighbourhood nursery in the basement. Lord Justice Butler-Sloss brought up her three children at the Temple, just across the road from the law courts, with the help of a series of nannies and a nursery school held in the Temple Church. And there are now several QC's such as Helena Kennedy and Mary Arden (three children apiece) in the throes of combining the law with the family, but they could not manage it without nannies. And while the country needs such women, it would rather not recognise their family responsibilities.

But whose children are they anyway? As we were reminded last week, no men have ever been vetted on how they organised their children's welfare before being given a job. If men had to organise it, and pay for it, at that crucial stage in their career ladders, things would be very different. Childcare would, as it should, become a visible necessity.

Happiness is a hobby

I heard *Woman's Hour* on Friday while I was busy reclassifying my Penny Reds and waiting for the soldering-iron to heat up for the fairylights on the 100,000-matchstick model of the Eiffel Tower I am completing. And I tell you, what I heard made me shake my fist, knocking my Meccano roundabout into the tropical fish hatchery.

Oh, all right, I lie. I have no secret workshop. I was, in fact, driving to the blasted shops like thousands of other women on their so-called day off. But the fist was shaken all right. For the question the programme asked was a very good one indeed: to wit, "Why do girls give up their hobbies when they start dating, while boys do not?" It was the answer which was not satisfactory. That, and the fact that nobody seemed to see any problem.

The line of the feature was that little boys are busy with collections and football cards and pet rats, while little girls enthuse over pony magazines and craft kits (and even, let us not be sexist, pet rats). Yet after puberty the sexes divide. They date one another, but boys carry on developing their interests, while the girls let their

withers and die to concentrate on hairdos. Various grown men, led by Hunter Davies, were wheeled out to brag of their stamp collections and prowess with steam-engine models but only one — an adult woman admitted publicly to her hobby, picking up old animal bones on walks.

The rest of the women were hobbyless and perversely proud of it. They trotted out the usual justifying lines about men being little boys at heart, so intricate they need pathetic hobbies, poor things. Women, on the other hand, are relationship-orientated. An underlying tone of female smugness suggested that this was naturally, yet another proof of our greater maturity and strength.

And I nearly stopped the car to be sick. Women! For God's sake! Why do we have such an amazing talent for looking at the bars on our cages and deciding that what they really need is a good brisk polish? Why shone up the mentality which says that the only permissible female hobbies are those which beautify the home and feed the brutes? Why covertly laugh at the woman who admitted that she likes collecting bones? She was a heroine. I hope she found some really good clavicles over the weekend.

It was a male voice which got to the nub of the matter. Goodness, no doubt about his Subbuteo set, he said plaintively: "It's about keeping some space in your head." Precisely. And space-in-the-head, a private place to retire to for refreshment, is what women too often lack. We rush around trying to prove ourselves by giving 110 per cent at work before being home to nurture men and children. At best we vary this by joylessly battering our bodies into socially acceptable shapes or



LIBBY PURVES

struggling through upholstery classes in the pathetic pretence that we are having "Me Time". But we are not. Not the way Hunter Davies has Me Time with his stamps.

Men have an enviable — not reprehensible — knack of not losing touch with humble pleasures: building useless objects, cataloguing them, or listening to ball-by-ball cricket commentaries. They keep a selfish space in their heads, a kind of psychic potting-shed. They do their duty by work and family but inside them still lies a boyhood place: a coral island, a lagoon, flamingos and pirates. A place where the long afternoon stretches out, golden, private, all your own.

Girls have a land like this too when they are small. The props may be different, but its secret otherness is not. We then let it be swamped by an advancing tide of

psychic mud, and self-interest, and left there to rot in the dreary trenches.

Teen-agers give up their private interests (whether music or breeding caviar, it matters not) in favour of self-beautification and making sandwiches at the cricket club. This is not a sign of maturity but of defeat. It leads to those middle-aged cries of "After all I've done for you!", or to a strikingly stupid addiction to ever newer "relationships". Men rarely say "After all I've done for you". Even if they have, there is a small, pleased guffaw; awareness that, actually, they got a good bit of self in as well.

The balance is improving. As chaps have grown wiser, circumstances about when they slope off to hand practice, and how much of the bedroom is taken up with hand-tools, I see more women defiantly banging on their private arrangements. They get teased for it whereas a man who collects bygone farm implements is presumed to be a serious expert, a woman who collects dolls' house furniture is "compensating", probably for some grievous sexual inadequacy. Who cares? Women who act as secretaries as men are always beyond the pale. But if beyond the pale is where the secret lagoon lies, so be it.

Long ago, I used to take old clocks to bits and make pictures out of the cogwheels. Screwdriver, please. And glue. I am not at home this afternoon, to anybody.

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TOMORROW

Raymond Keene meets Gary Kasparov, the highest rated player in the history of chess, as he prepares to take up *The Times* challenge

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مَكْدَانِ الْأَصْل

12

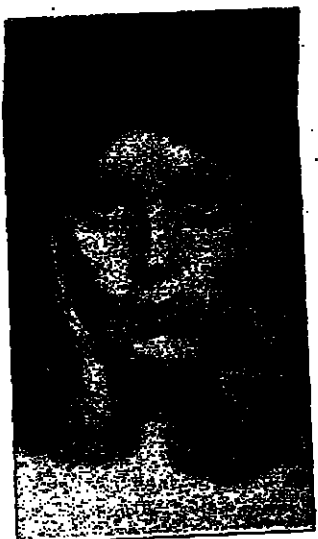
54



For fashion fans, Bita was a milestone in history. The co-founder of Barbed-Huland's, and her husband Stephen Fire-Simon, embraced a new way of thinking about fashion in 1963, at the same time as the "swinging," it began a company called Bita's Postcard. He was that of Huland's: the first design was a long one with a drawing waist and ties. They had 200 orders of pink gingham checkered matching headscarf. This design, commissioned by it that time the fashion *Mirror*. It was offered to "something cool," "young and trendy." "If you fashion fortune — and in dress." Seventeen thousand obviously thought it was born.

The Biba girl came from the sketches Hulanicki created as an illustrator. In her book *From A To Biba* she describes her as a dolly. "She was very pretty and young. She had an upturned nose, rosy cheeks, and a skinny body with long asparagus legs and tiny feet. She was square shouldered and quite flat chested. Her head was perched on a long, swanlike neck. Her face was the perfect oval, her lids were heavy with long, spiky lashes." A look which is again being replicated on the international runways by designers as disparate as Karl Lagerfeld in Paris, Anna Sui in New York, and Dolce e Gabbana in Milan.

Hulanicki's career moved fast and fur-



Icons of the early 1970s:
Twiggy and that logo

ously. Magazine coverage attracted the attention of Cathy McGowan, then a presenter on the music show *Ready, Steady, Go*. McGowan was the ultimate Modern miss. Every girl wanted to be her. She wore Biba and her fans followed suit.

It was inevitable that a shop would be the next step. Hulanicki had already held a sale in her flat, hanging the clothes from door frames, playing a Beatles LP as loud as possible on a record player in the corner of the room. She had telephoned friends and associates to let them know about her sale. They in turn had telephoned their friends and so, on the day, her flat was overrun with the Biba faithful.

In 1964 she opened her first Biba store in Abingdon Road in Kensington. On opening day she played the same Beatles LP, and simply watched in amazement as girls fought over the same brown pinstripe dress. She had sold every dress by 11 o'clock. Caroline Baker, the fashion editor of *Good Housekeeping*, remembers how trips to the store soon became a pilgrimage. "My memories are of entering through doors with art nouveau swirls into a palace of eminently desirable pretty frocks and frills, and the absolute dreamiest part of it all was that I could afford it because it was so cheap. Biba revolutionised the fashion scene; it was clothing for people as opposed to the privileged. Biba was perfection."

From here Hulanicki moved to Kensington Church Street and news spread. Barbara Streisand, Mia Farrow, Brigitte Bardot, Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull all showed up to sample Biba style. Even Princess Anne dropped by, with a lady-in-waiting in tow. At Kensington Church Street the Biba girl evolved from a dolly into a dreamy romantic, with cascading pre-Raphaelite curls and stained septia lips. Hulanicki started working with the photographer Sarah Moon, on the recommendation of Molly Parkin, then a fashion editor at *Harpers & Queen* magazine. The era was epitomised in a collection of soft-focus posters by Hulanicki and Moon which soon became collectors' items.

Street, saw Biba offering men's and children's clothes alongside the womenswear, cosmetics and household goods. Hair stands, dyed ostrich feathers and potted palms became part of the interior, and very much part of the decadent lifestyle Biba exuded.

The final home for Biba was the Derry and Tomes building, a huge department store also in Kensington High Street. It is this store which is most remembered, and which is pictured on this page.

Big Biba had everything: Six floors and 400,000 sq ft of nothing but Biba. Floor after floor of the most amazing-looking merchandise. There was a food hall, beauty salon and restaurant; skinny ribbed sweaters, flowing satin pants, platform shoes and funny-looking little hats with sparkly black widow veils; brightly coloured feather boas fluttered happily from below red pink flamingos wandering around the roof garden, for which the sculptor, Andrew

Logan created huge roses and oversized lilies. "I have wonderful memories of Biba," Mr Logan says. "Glamour, colour and laughter. It was also a good bargain!" His favourite Biba purchase was a pair of gold, oxford wellington boots.

If Biba housed clothes the like of which nobody had seen before, then the sales assistants who sold them were out of this world. Strange looking langrid girls and boys with hair the colour of red wine, or Superman blue/black, appeared to slide around the floor in sweeping baggy trousers, atop high rise platforms, poured into tight-fitting black and gold "bumble bee" sweaters. Their nails were painted black, or andique green. Their eye sockets, equally dark, sank deep into their pallid skin. The Biba sales assistants were a triumph. Every fashion-conscious teenager wanted the job.

omnipresent. It had an air of Hollywood glamour given a futuristic kick. It was vampy and campy at the same time. Leopardskin and sequins mingled side by side as the elite *demi-monde* parried at the Rainbow Room, watching new bands perform. Manhattan Transfer, Cockney Rebel, the Pointer Sisters, and more appeared in the glamorous art deco lounge, as below the Roof Garden.

The designer Rifat Ozbek considers Biba to have been crucial to fashion culture. "I remember sitting on the sofas on the ground floor in front of the windows, putting on black nail varnish that I'd just bought, before going upstairs to the Rainbow Room to watch the New York Dolls perform. . . . It was fabulous at the time, but you look at old photographs and wonder, 'Why did I wear that? What was my hair doing?'"

A question many style pundits are asking is why has the look reappeared in 1993?

Fashion, of course, moves in circles. The glamorous screen siren images we have seen on the runways over past seasons appear to have collided with the 1970s revival which has been running amok on the streets. The outcome is a nineties take of a seventies take of the thirties. Biba-laste.

Biba finally came to a sticky end when money men decided that the store had to be run more traditionally, in a more business-like way. The emporium lost its flavour, and Hulanicki found herself banned from entering her own store. Its last days in 1975 were sad, when a massive closing down sale was staged, piled high in heaps on the floor.

Biba may have died, but as the models tripping down the international runway this season have proved, Barbara Hulanicki's dream lives on.

● Biba: the label, the lifestyle, the look is at the **Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne (091-23 6090/7772)** from **Coburn 10 until June 6** with which the programme has and the performance carried

WHEN every model you see is getting a haircut you know a trend is looming. When the editor of *Vogue* follows suit, you know it has arrived. Alexandra Shulman is the latest convert to the feathery "Shirley Partridge" crop, created for her by hairdresser to the beau monde, Nicky Clarke. An appointment at your local salon seems inevitable.

Subtle step

ALFRED Dunhill's centenary spring-summer collection sees a shift to a softer more subtle look. Its distinctive yet understated image remains, but with a new accent on comfort — a further step towards the merging of "working" and "weekend" clothing. Sporty casual shapes are much in evidence in a spectrum of shades from the softest pastels to brights. Alfred Dunhill Ltd, 3 Duke Street, London SW1, and branches nationwide (071-499566).

Dressed to wed

IF The problem of what to get married in is causing pre-nuptial tension, then why not visit the You and Your Wedding Live exhibition. Fashion shows will feature the latest designs in wedding dresses. There will be opportunities to meet the designers, and seek advice about all aspects of weddings. You and Your Wedding Live, Saturday, February 20, New Connaught Rooms, London WC2. Tickets are £14.50.

had been selected
out

Matthew Parris



The modern health-conscious world offers a feast of leftovers for the broad-minded scavenger

In their eating habits, children can be divided into those who leave things and those who eat the things the others have left. As a child I came into the second category. I was always in the market for the glacial cherries from the other kids' ice-cream sundae, the currants from my sister's bread-and-butter pudding and the black liquorice logs nesting among the Alibon's. I was the one to eat the potato skins and the crusts. I even accepted the skin from my brother's custard.

Growing up, we hardly change. One becomes more furtive about childish habits and I have, under pressure, stopped eating things that have actually been chewed. In a smart restaurant the other day I felt guilty about picking a sad little abandoned roast potato off the vacated table next to mine... but I did it. The instinct remains strong. I'm a natural scavenger.

Yet anxious not to offend. Several sorrowful letters from restaurateurs, received since I suggested in this column that, like excreting, eating is a bodily function, have led me to refine the analogy: eating is like filling a steam engine's boiler with coal: you just shovel it in.

Within minutes it will all be jumbled up together in your stomach, so it seems of little consequence how the food is "presented", how the constituents of your meal are combined, or what order you eat them in. Tally-ho and shovel, I say!

As one moves into adulthood, however, tastes move from sweet to savoury, and I am now in the market for any black olives, hot peppers, gherkins or anchovies you may leave aside. I am proud to say that though I have sometimes failed to finish a plateful of food on account of having no room left, I have never, never, steered to the side of my plate one of those prim little bulldozings of things I "couldn't" or "don't" eat.

Plates where this happens are my natural hunting ground. I eat anything. And it occurs to me that in the modern, health-conscious world, there's a whole new field of leftovers where we scavengers ought to be able to scavenge.

Where do they put the caffeine they extract from "decaffeinated coffee"? I should hate to think it was being thrown away or discharged into the Brazilian river system, agitating the piranhas. Couldn't it be sold off cheap, perhaps in pills? Or shouldn't they market "recaffeinated", "super-cafeinated" or "turbo-cafeinated" coffee? Good names for the brand would be Zonk or Quiver or Jolt. Come to think of it, can you get decaffeinated caffeine?

How about all that fat from "fat-free", "lo-fat" or

Eating is like filling a steam engine's boiler with coal: you just shovel it in'

employed he could do worse than direct these tankers where they might do some good. And, talking of tankers, where do they put the lead that isn't going into petrol? My Land Rover, which will do only 16mpg on lead-free petrol, could hardly do worse on petrol-free lead.

But I wander from my theme, which was food. Is oxalate soup really made from the tails of oxen alone? What do they do with the rest of the ox? I'm told that in Australia the price of duck has come right down since food retailers in Hong Kong (where ducks' feet are what the Chinese gourmet seeks) arranged a refrigerated shipping service.

But where do the canners of peeled grapes put all the skins? What do Mexican restaurants specialising in guacamole do with all the avocado pits? Is there, somewhere in France, a great mouldering mountain of legless frogs? You see, I like grapeskins. I know you can swallow an avocado pip whole if you shut your eyes and think of Gerald Kaufman, and I'm sure I could learn to eat the rest of the frog. Snakes do.

Knocked back with a glass of Barbrican-free alcohol and a decaffeinated caffeine pill, the avocado pip would precede the legless frog sautéed on a bed of soused grapeskins. No sweat.

That reminds me: I must find a way of getting my chlorofluorocarbons without the added deodorant.

I feel very sorry for Nina Rosenblum who, according to *The Washington Post*, was in Europe last Friday and "unable to comment". Ms Rosenblum is the co-producer of a television film, *The Liberators*, a documentary about black soldiers who freed Jews from concentration camps at the end of the second world war. It was intended to improve relations between Jewish and African Americans in New York.

The film was shown on the PBS network in November, but has now been withdrawn after complaints from the American Jewish Committee and veterans' associations that it was unflattering. The battalion it showed never was at the places the film portrayed, though it did fight well in the Battle of the Bulge and helped to liberate Gurskirk, a satellite concentration camp.

Ms Rosenblum undoubtedly intended to do good, and to improve the tense ethnic relationships of New York. She has been criticised and repudiated for her pains. She probably knew that she was walking a dangerous path. Another report last week shows how dangerous it is. At a Virginia high school there has been a clash between groups of African American and Hispanic American students; both sides were armed with guns. As a response the Virginia education authorities have established a training course for teachers in mediating group ethnic disputes.

Virginia high schools are now being treated like so many Bosnias, with the different tribal groups in conflict with each other, and the teachers playing the roles of David Owen and Cyrus Vance.

The retribalisation of the world is less advanced in the United States than in Africa, the Balkans or the former Soviet Union, but it is equally evident as a trend. In the United States the tribes are forming on a sexual or gender-defined basis as well as on an ethnic one. Take, for instance, the question of gays in the

US armed forces. Until 1950 black and white units were segregated in the US army, and for many years after 1950 blacks were still treated as "second class soldiers". Gays have made the comparison between their situation and that of black soldiers in that period. This has angered many black soldiers, and General Colin Powell, himself black, is the leading military figure opposed to lifting the ban on gays. Black culture, both in America and Africa, tends to be more hostile than white to homosexuality; indeed, homosexuality is often resented by black people as involving white corruption of black youth, as being a form of white sexual colonialism.

The attempt by some gay groups to be accepted as the sexually defined equivalent of an ethnic minority is resented by some existing minority groups. There is tension between blacks and Jews and there is also tension between blacks and gays. Much the largest gender group to imitate the conduct of an ethnic minority is the women's movement, for whom Hillary Clinton has become the role model. Here again, the response has included widespread but covert hostility. It is not uncommon in Washington to be told "the latest Hillary story", and they are all demerol.

"Political correctness" itself is largely an attempt to pretend that these hostile reactions to ethnic and sexual claims do not exist. Several ethnic minorities, including Hispanic Americans and Orthodox and Hassidic Jews, take a traditional view of the roles appropriate

Hyphenated into a new tribalism

William Rees-Mogg

majority of most of the minorities, of African, native, Hispanic, Jewish and other hyphenated Americans, and of gay and women activists. The Republicans have usually had a majority of the majority group, of what could be called unhyphenated Americans. Among definable minority groups, only the rich and the religious vote Republican.

Both parties have long indulged in tokenism, in putting representatives of ethnic groups in offices or on committees to demonstrate fair-mindedness. One Republican secretary of the interior had to resign after a woman, a black, a cripple, a Jew and a Jew to some constituency. Yet President Clinton's administration is

the first to move from tokenism to what are in effect quotas. He has not chosen an administration of all the talents, but an administration which tries to balance all the groups. The only minority significantly over-represented is Rhodes scholars.

This has delayed the process of forming the administration, particularly in the appointment of an attorney-general, where three successive women have been brought forward. Yet the administration is only following the pattern of American society, and has probably done so reluctantly. President Clinton himself has attacked the quota system.

Forbes magazine has published some important research into the influence of employment quotas for the "protected classes", which include women, ethnic minorities, and most recently the disabled. Its conclusion is that America has the most far-reaching employment laws in the world, and that these laws, enforced by affirmative-action bureaucrats in both government and business, produce arbitrary and costly results.

"All employers with more than 15 staff, public, private or non-profit, come under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's uniform guidelines on employment selection procedures. All can be sued by the EEOC for discrimination if the racial, ethnic and sex mix of new hires diverges sufficiently from that of all other qualified applicants - for example, if the percentage of blacks hired is lower than the percentage of blacks applying. That covers 86 per

cent of the entire non-farm private sector workforce."

Because of public anger at the application of quotas, "race-norming" was banned in the 1991 Civil Rights Act. But *Forbes* produces evidence that quotas are still being generally applied, even where they are denied. Here again, the system not only creates tensions between minority groups and the majority, but also between different minority groups. *Forbes* gives an example of an employer sidelining Hispanic applications for employment because he did not have enough blacks. The opposite could well happen. Either is bad for ethnic relations.

Of course, there is an economic cost to this. The United States spends close to 25 per cent of GDP on the combined costs of health care, regulation and litigation, as against an overhead of perhaps half that in Japan, or even in Britain. But the long-term threat is to the social unity of the country. Each time an ethnic, sex or disadvantaged group obtains a benefit from political action, that sends a message to every other similar group. Why do gays model themselves on the civil rights movement? Because the civil rights movement was successful.

The quota system employed in forming the Clinton administration, the similar quota system of the EEOC and the other related regulatory systems, have had the effect of politicising jobs - not just some jobs but virtually all jobs. At first sight that might make for fairer employment practices. But it obviously translates economic competition for employment into political competition. It tends to transfer loyalty from the nation to the sub-group. As the hyphenated creep in people come to regard themselves less as Americans, and more as African, black, Hispanic, female, gay, or even disabled Americans. Quotas are not the cure but are helping to promote the retribalisation of America.

The Thatcher era was an exception to the rule, says Peter Riddell

Less than a year after leading his party to an election victory, a Tory prime minister was under fire in the press from traditional allies. A widely discussed article in *The Daily Telegraph* said: "Most Conservatives are waiting to feel the smack of firm government. The spirit and the strategy can be created only by the prime minister himself."

Always sensitive to press criticism, the prime minister rejected advice to ignore the attacks and insisted on replying publicly. "This country is not on its way down, and this government is not on its way out. As to the government, we were elected not for six or eight months, but for five years."

The prime minister was Anthony Eden, speaking in January 1956, nine months after succeeding Winston Churchill. There are obvious similarities with now, although John Major is a shrewd politician than Eden was.

The real lesson to be drawn is that weak government is not unusual in post-war Britain. It has been the norm and strong government the exception. Strength and weakness have only partly been linked with the size of Commons majorities. As important have been the state of the economy and sterling, and internal party cohesion.

The Attlee government was dominated by strong characters, but it retained the political initiative for only two years. After the devaluation crisis of summer 1949, the government became increasingly divided and exhausted. Over the subsequent 13 Tory years, the final Churchill term was successful, even though its leader was by then old, often ill, and out of touch; the Eden administration was a disaster, and Harold Macmillan's



lan's period of dominance lasted for just over three years from late 1958 until early 1962. The Home premiership was largely a pre-election interlude.

Paradoxically, Harold Wilson was at his strongest when he had a single-figure majority from October 1964 until March 1966. But within a few months of winning a 100-seat majority, his authority began to be undermined by that July's sterling crisis, followed by recurrent political and financial challenges. The Heath administration could claim to be firm for just over 18 months until the first miners' strike in early 1972. The second Wilson and the Callaghan administrations were bedevilled by weak positions in the Commons and financial storms.

That leaves Margaret Thatcher. Even though she often, reluctantly, agreed to tactical retreats, she always appeared single-minded and consistent. Her 11½ years in power stand out as a highly unusual, long period of strong government, aided by a divided Opposition. Judged by the post-war record, they were, however, an aberration: over the preceding 34 years since 1945, well under half can even charitably be described as years of strong government.

However, to many contemporary eyes, the firm smack of the Thatcher years is the norm. Mr Major is therefore seen in terms of the unusual Thatcher era rather than the more usual weak governments before that.

Mr Major's position has been made more difficult by her legacy, the splits over Europe and the economy, and the upheavals surrounding her fall. That led to a high turnover of senior ministers as several former close allies left the cabinet to spend more time with their families, their directorships, or, at least, away from her. That has robbed the present cabinet of experience and ballast, producing a distinctly patchy front bench. The manner of Baroness Thatcher's departure, and her desire to keep the flame alight over Europe, created a band of irreconcilables on the back benches, and a few in junior ministerial ranks, who would like to see the back of the prime minister. Each time Mr Major struggles to

break free of the Thatcherite past, he is dragged back. That has turned what should be a comfortable working majority of 21 into a minority government on many issues. Government whips have to calculate how to minimise any revolt by Tory MPs and how to win over the minority parties. Government by concession and compromise is required not just over the Maastricht Bill but also over pit closures, the future of naval dockyards and army cutbacks. Avoidance of defeats may not be a glorious strategy, but it is inevitable.

Final approval of the Maastricht Bill (probably not until October) and definite economic recovery are necessary preconditions for any hope of strong government, but they are not sufficient. Unemployment will continue to rise for some time and now has a tight grip in Tory areas, unlike the recession of the early 1980s. The government will also have, before long, to take action to reduce public sector borrowing. Income tax will no doubt be cut before the next election but it will be in the context of generally higher taxes and squeezed spending programmes.

As important are political constraints - the existence of the Thatcherite irreconcilables and a probably declining Commons majority as by-elections occur, reinforced by the impression that the government lacks coherence and direction. The time of maximum personal danger for Mr Major could be in the summer and autumn of 1994, after a probably bad run of local and European elections that spring, and if economic recovery is still sluggish. The present jitteriness at Westminster should not, however, be exaggerated. The Major cabinet may be stumbling from one mishap and U-turn to the next, highlighted by its confused manoeuvrings over the social chapter amendment to the Maastricht Bill. But none of the current difficulties need prove fatal. Previous governments have been in far worse positions, economically and politically. More likely is that we are seeing a return to the normal post-war pattern of weak governments managing relative decline.

Euro-Kinnocks

POWER couples, it seems, are all the rage, and where the Clintons have led the Kinnocks may yet follow. For it, as now seems likely, Glenys Kinnock is duly elected a Labour Euro-MP next year. Neil may not be far behind her on the way to Brussels.

This may come as something of a surprise to those who thought Kinnock's hopes of becoming one of Britain's highly paid EC commissioners had been ended last year. The job had looked to be all his after John Major, John Smith and Kinnock dined together at Downing Street. But the cabinet was split over the appointment. The result was that when the job failed to materialise Kinnock let it be known that he never wanted it anyway.

Now it appears he may have had a change of heart. If the offer is still on the table next time the commissioners change, in two years' time, he may well allow his name to go forward.

Success second time round

"at the very early stages of discussion and development" on a drama-documentary project dealing with the harrowing events of two years ago.

Early stages or not, the adverse reaction to the idea, especially from the parents of the children taken into care, is likely to present Colin Cameron, a former head of documentary features in London, with one of his biggest headaches since becoming head of television in Scotland last year.

Preparing a draft script for the project, however, is a man well used to controversy. Michael Eaton. Previous screen-writing credits include Yorkshire Television's *Shoot to Kill* documentary on the Stalker enquiry and *Why Lockerbie?* for Granada. But Eaton, it appears, does not confine himself to fighting modern day wrongs. He is also one of the world's leading authorities on Robin Hood. Orkney parents, however, will be hoping that his latest project rides straight out of the glen.

● You are never too old for romance, as an advertisement in the personal column of the



latest issue of the Jewish Chronicle proves. "Flying granny seeks north London boyfriend, 65 to 75, to make her feel 60 again. Looking for a good looking, good listener, keen on bridge, films and long-term friendship. Send picture... with teeth in."



DIARY

Feather footed

A RARE sighting of the elusive DJM is expected later this spring when Nature Notes, a regular feature in *The Times* since 1981, are collected into a new book, *The New Times Nature Diary*. For those who do not know, the enigmatic initials DJM belong to Derwent May, formerly editor of *The Listener* and literary editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, who proposed the idea to the then editor of *The Times*, Harold Evans.

Evans accepted and May has been detailing nature in all its glory ever since. His latest observation on great crested grebes and lesser celandines appear over the page (16). May says he wants the notes to be a "bulletin about what is going on in the country, not sloppy or roman-

Going down in style

● A fortnight ago in *The Independent Magazine*, Susan Guppy (right) wrote in praise of what she dubbed her "grand progenitor" and "cousin", Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*. In it Guppy recalled a letter Blixen wrote to her mother in which Blixen confessed: "A certain love of greatness, which could not be quelled, has kept a hold on me, has been my 'daimon'." A thought, no doubt, for Guppy's son Darus to bear in mind as he begins his as yet unspecified prison sentence for fraud.



ers can rest assured that only Islay peat is used in the production of our whisky." All to do with that vital ingredient the peat reek, he says. Lang may it continue.

● CAUSE for celebration at the Reform Club in Pall Mall. A bust of Charles Barry, the architect who designed the building in 1841, has been replaced after a year in the hands of repairers. The dam-

age happened when an enthusiastic member careered downstairs after a tiring lunch, and pulled the white marble bust from its perch, half way up the main stairs. The bust broke in three - shoulders, head and "hair". Now mended, it occupies a marginally safer position further down the stairs. Despite the repairs' best efforts, a faint line is visible round the neck. Not unlike a few members.



Dinners

Memorial service

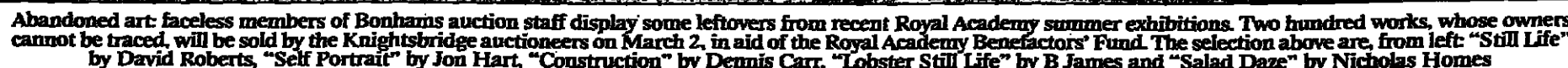
Mrs Mary Norton
A memorial service for Mrs Mary Norton was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John

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The great crested grebe
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spines on the gorse or furze bushes,
and the dried-up heather still has a
purple glow. DJM

Diary page 14



**Mr S.R. Myers
and Dr S.E. Slater**
The engagement is announced
between Simon, son of Dr and
Mrs D.M. Myers, of Maldon,
Essex, and Sarah, daughter of Dr
and Mrs A. Slater, of Broughton,
Preston.

BMATT Zimbabwe, 15.2.93; OT
HALL - To be Comd Sup HQ
BDIST, 15.2.93.
LEUTENANT COLONEL: K
Geddie RAOC - To CVD
Ashchurch, 15.2.93; R C Goodall
RRW - To be Co ITB Strussell,
15.2.93. R Puffinberger, Drake

BIRTHS: Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, novelist. Avilés, Spain, 1519; Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Pisa, 1564; Michael Praetorius, composer, Weimar, 1571; John Milton (and he died on this day), WottonBacon, 1621; King Louis XV of France, reigned 1715-1774; Versailles, 1710; Joseph Benbow, Unitarian philosopher, London, 1748; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher, Ramsgate, Kent, 1861; Sir Halford John Mackinder, geographer, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, 1861; Sir Sydney Herbert, architect and architectural historian, London, 1866; Sir Ernest Shackleton, antarctic explorer, Kilkeel, Co. Down, 1874; John Barrymore, actor, Philadelphia, 1874; Sir John Lubbock, 1st Baron Sutton Forest, New South Wales, 1887; Graham Hill, racing driver, London, 1929.

The following Territorial Army promotions were effected between Oct 1 and Dec 31 1992:

Lieutenant to captain

Capt J D Alexander 1 Yorks, Capt J C Alcock R Anglian, Capt J E T Adiss LI (V), Capt N J W Beard RA, Capt C H Beament RAOC, Capt F Bloor RCT, Capt L F Brough R Sigs, Capt J M Brough

[illegible]

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Thomson. Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command, was the senior officer of the graduation of 82 officers of No 44 Initial Officer Training Course from the RAF College Cranwell on February 11.

Graduating officers

General Duties Branch - Pilot Officers: R J Parsons BE, R C Jarvis SC, D L Ling BE, K Marsh BE, M W Roskoff. **Pilot Officers R C Gaskett BE, J E Heald BE, S G Hughes BE, I McKenzie BE, H J Williams BE, T Gilchrist BE, S C WRAP, S F Williams BE.**

General Duties Branch - Navigator Flying Officers: J M May SC, A B Gifford SC. **Pilot Officers:** D A Gibbs BE, J M Maguire SC, P J O'Connell SC. **Officers:** J Henderson, P F McDougall.

General Duties Branch - Air Staff Officer: J M May SC.

Flying Officer Cadet M J Cowie, Flying Officers A T Hamilton, D C Watson.

General Duties (Ground Branch - Air Traffic Control)

Flying Officers M R Palfreys, S J Palfrey
Pilot Officers A K Mitchell, BSC, acting Pilot Officers N J Dargan, V A Salmon

General Duties (Ground Branch - Fighter Control)

Flying Officers M J Fleckley, J Howcroft WRAS.

Sending Messages

Flight Lieutenants S J Haddley BRAS AMIEE, R Holmes BRAS, C F E Legge BRAS, G W Lacey BRAS, J M Benge, W Gill BRAS AMIEE, P M Benge, T M Thompson BRAS

Purvis

AMIEE, C Childs BRAS AMIEE, flying Officer M J Hirst, J McCarthy BRAS, R J McMurrian BRAS, T S Monk, G J Smith BRAS, J A Stanger BRAS, Pooler BRAS, G P Streetfield BRAS, I A Sturt BRAS, J A Taylor BRAS, Officers N J Hale BRAS, M C Puby BRAS

Supply Branch

Flying Officers A Green; Pilot Officers I Povey BRAS, M J Slater BRAS, WRAS

Stores and Stores Administration

Flying Officers A Ardron, M H Layer, A

E M Scott, Pilot Officer T Moore BA
Administrative Branch - Education
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RAF cadet who has demonstrated out-
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outstanding ability, leadership and

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 The Rev Nigel Cahill, Vicar of Tonyandy w Clydach Vale to be also Rural Dean of the Rhondda, in succession to the Rev David Huw Rhysdherch, Rector-designate of St Andrew Major w Michaelston-le-

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suite compiled by 'M. Gervais from the overture and ballet tunes of Rameau's opera *Castor and Pollux*. Happily the original orchestration has been preserved, and the varieties of colour 'which Rameau obtained with an orchestra of strings, oboes, bassoons and two horns, with the occasional use of piccolos and a single trumpet, are not less interesting part of the work. The broad Lullian overture gave special opportunity to the strings, and was vigorously played: the dainty 'Tambourin' in which the drum and piccolos are used, a graceful 'Menuet', and a quaint 'passepied' make charming contrast, and the whole is concluded with a chorosne based on a rich melody. After the opening of the opera, the 'Finlandia' - 'Finlandia' sounded more than usually emphatic. Except for the invention of a few simple themes which are said to resemble the folksons of Finland, there is little to commend this piece, and on ly the fetish that everything which reflects national characteristics must be good art can account for its popularity. Its slender materials are, in fact, loosely put together and a consciously orchestrated. It is not so good as the concertos which are otherwise remarkable, and the refined taste with which the programme had been selected and the performance carried out.

February 15, 1993. Registered by

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan's run of success brings fear of failure

Wigan.....23
St Helens.....3

By Christopher Irvine

LOSE this one and the place will surely die, said a voice on the radio. There is life and death in Wigan, and then there is the rugby league club. Without it, the Lancashire town would have no real badge of identity. Success at Central Park, and the Challenge Cup in particular, is its life blood.

A stunning victory in reaching the quarter-finals of the Silk Cut competition was rationally celebrated, as if by right. But it is a peculiar brand of fanaticism that generates hate mail should Wigan lose a couple of games. With success has come an unnerving level of contempt on the terraces.

Clark ends Keighley cup hopes

THE door was shutting on Hull Kingston Rovers in the Challenge Cup second round yesterday when, in the last move of the game, their half back, Dean Clark, scored his third try to shatter Keighley (Christopher Irvine writes).

A minute earlier, Keighley, of the third division, thought they had clinched the tie when John Wasyliw converted his second try. Keighley dropped their guard and Clark's score brought the first division side back behind for the third time to squeeze home 30-28.

Bradford Northern clawed back an eight-point deficit at half-time to beat Wakefield Trinity 20-18 after Leeds routed Rochdale Hornets 68-6. Ellery Hanley scored four tries. Garry Schofield claimed a second-half hat-trick and Paul Cook scored two.

Widnes trounced Sheffield Eagles 52-6. Jonathan Davies scored 14 points. Castleford overcame Hunslet, of the third division, 34-16 and Oldham are the only second division side in the quarter-finals after defeating Huddersfield 20-17.

Shaun Edwards, 26, the Great Britain half back, has warned Wigan that he will quit at the end of the season unless he receives an improved contract.

Contrary to Wigan's suffocating dominance, John Monie, their coach, is mindful of the cyclical nature of sporting fortune. Among his greatest concerns is how the supporters will respond to losing again. With Monie off to Auckland in May after four unrivalled years, Wembley beckoning for a sixth consecutive time, and a first clean sweep of the five important trophies a distinct possibility, one fears for whoever is his successor.

After so contemptuous treatment of St Helens, Monie, not given to exaggeration, said that Wigan could win anywhere in the world, playing at such a peak. Saturday was undoubtedly a benchmark in a season inexorably moving the champions' way, as it so often does around this time.

St Helens' confident pretence to the crowd did not match the ability Wigan have to lift their game to peerless heights when the occasion demands. Derrin was the prime mover in this from dummy half. Quickfire distribution, huge inroads through the middle, and supreme timing of his passing left a flimsy defence in tatters when he slipped Edwards through for the third of their tries.

Wigan buried the memory of their 41-6 thrashing by the championship leaders at Christmas and scornfully added to a record of seven successive Challenge Cup wins over them since 1977. "We've just got to pick up and push on with the lead," Mike McClellan, the St Helens coach said afterwards.

Whatever game plan McClellan had was torn up by the intensity of Wigan's early tackling. Ward's broken thumb stood out from the pile of ball he fumbled and the walls tumbled down under the pile-driving burst of Platt and Skerrett.

St Helens' last line of defence was despairingly weak, when Bell rounded three tackles for the opening score, and Clarke later had a free run from 20 metres out. Three second-half dropped goals by Lydon and Offiah killed off any hope.

SCORERS: Wigan: Try: Bell, Clarke, Edwards, Lydon, Offiah, Skerrett, Ward. St Helens: Try: Bell, Clarke, Edwards, Lydon, Offiah, Skerrett, Ward.

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Lewis century prolongs agony for England

A challenge for Eubank's
has been pencilled in by
Hearn, the London
meter, for September at an

Mass appeal: More, the India wicketkeeper, and Kumble, the bowler, lead the celebrations as Smith is dismissed yesterday, caught at short leg by Amre. It was the first of Kumble's five wickets

only the second defeat of the American pair. Stoklos was

12-7, woman's inset: K Kirby and N
and of Adrena and Monica, 12-3, 12-10.

think. Eubank would be more picky but I would outlast him. He looks fit but he isn't fit. He doesn't do his roadwork."

The best form of defence: Lewis hits out on the way to his maiden Test century

R
neiro

mittee, arrived overnight especially for the finals. "We can accommodate anything we set our minds on," he said, having recently abandoned his ambition to bring golf to the Games. "I think we would stage beach volleyball at Savannah, alongside the yachting, which is not a spectating sport." Savannah has miles of golden beach.

More than 15,000 spectators were packed into the temporary stand almost two

hours before the start yesterday. The match was a close-fought one, the two and a half hours was the final, even though both the Brazilian men and women were defeated by Americans in the straight sets after leading in the second set.

This is the only sport in which they benignly turn the noses on the crowd. Every 10 or 15 minutes, as the temperature soared above 100, two powerjets would spray the spectators, dressed uniformly in the yellow and green of Brazil.

The series was notable for the semi-final defeat of Benjamin Smith and Stoklos by Anginho and Loloia, of Brazil. Only the second defeat of the American pair. Stoklos was

the son of an immigrant Polish factory worker and took up the sport because his father refused to let him play anything else because of the expense. He enjoys an ironic last laugh, and still talks to his father.

The live Brazilian television audience yesterday was seven million, with recordings transmitted to 200 million worldwide and hence. The tournament's 12 multinational sponsors included British Airways, Steffes and Johnson, the men's winners, are the morning some \$30,000 better off, Steffes' winning having paid \$800,000.

RESULTS: Men's final: K. Steffes and Johnson (USA) to Amelio and Lucio (5-12, 9-12). Women's final: K. Kirby and Steffes (USA) to Amelio and Lucio (5-12, 9-12).

NICKY Piper, the Welsh super-middleweight, lifted the World Boxing Association Panza-continental championship at Manchester on Saturday, by outpointing Miguel Maldonado, of Argentina, but it was no more than the badge for an under-champion (Striban's News writes). By the end of the year Piper believes he will become a real champion by taking either Chris Eubank's World Boxing Organisation title or Nigel Benn's World Boxing Council belt.

A challenge for Eubank's title has been pencilled in by Barry Hearn, the London promoter, for September at an open-air venue in Cardiff.

Piper would prefer a return with Benn first, even though he was stopped in 11 rounds by the WBC champion in December last year. He believes he has enough experience to beat Benn – and Eubank.

"I am not saying it is going to be easy," Piper said. "But I am very confident. I was so stiff last time because I gave Benn too much respect. I would be a lot looser. He doesn't punch as hard as you think. Eubank would be more picky but I would outlast him. He looks fit but he isn't fit. He doesn't do his roadwork."

Rio de Janeiro

the IOC, in four members, said, "I am sorry." "It is impossible to win in a matter of shorts, and harm to the environment if we include for the Canceled sure the agree."

The president of the organizing committee, arrived overnight especially for the finals. "We can accommodate anything we set our minds on," he said, having recently abandoned his ambition to bring golf to the Games. "I think we would stage beach volleyball at Savannah, alongside the yachting, which is not a sporting sport." Savannah has miles of golden beach.

More than 15,000 spectators were packed into the temporary stand almost two

Blackburn enjoy last laugh as Wegerle earns comic relief



Wegerle: last-minute winner

Blackburn Rovers 1
Newcastle United 0

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

ROY of the Rovers has been a long tale in the telling, and Blackburn must hope it is not over yet. For if they are to have anything to show for the most remarkable season in their history, other than a feeling of well-being and the envy of less prosperous rivals, there must be a happy ending.

Roy Wegerle's last-minute goal cleansed the Ewood stables after four successive defeats had threatened to sap the belief of this expensive assembled side. Moreover, their overall performance confirmed that, in Alan Shearer's prolonged absence, Blackburn will become increasingly dependent on his skills in the final weeks of the season.

Wegerle's contribution to an FA Cup fifth-round tie that failed to realise its potential was immense. Without him, there would hardly have been a game worth watching, so cautious was Newcastle's approach, and it was entirely appropriate that he eventually won it with a goal which betokened not just class but a style granted to few.

Controlling an upfield hack from May with the outside of his right foot, he composed himself as he entered the penalty area, deceived Kilcline and Venison with a lurch to the right to gain an important additional yard, and beat Snieck, who had committed himself to protecting the left-hand post, with a clean shot into the other corner.

As children of all ages know, Roy of the Rovers scored goals like that every week. All the moment needed was a bubble floating above the Nuttall Street Stand saying: "It's all over for Newcastle, bar the shouting." Indeed it

was, leaving the first-division side to the not entirely negligible business of winning promotion.

Wegerle also has important business to settle. No striker wants to live in another's shadow and Saturday's match-winner has begun no fewer than 21 games this season on the bench. Before Shearer injured his knee, he and Wegerle had started just one league match together, the 7-1 defeat of Norwich City in October.

By one of those quirks, Wegerle's return eight games ago coincided with the exposure of defensive frailties that saw Blackburn leak 14 goals in four games preceding this tie. Moran's return at centre half was just as significant a factor in victory.

It might have been achieved more thoroughly had Wilcox not missed appallingly when Snieck's half-save of Wegerle's shot fell for him inside the six-yard box. The retreating Venison

did well to block the first attempt before Wilcox inexcusably sent his follow-up high over the bar.

It is difficult to judge how much it all means to Blackburn folk. Don Mackay, whose departure led to Kenny Dalglish's arrival at Ewood, used to say there was room for a top-flight club in Lancashire beyond Manchester and Liverpool. True, but in terms of the capacity to support a big club, Blackburn are less equipped than Burnley, despite Jack Walker's philanthropy.

Last Wednesday, for their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, Blackburn attracted 4,000 fewer supporters than Burnley pulled in last year for a fourth-division fixture. If Burnley ever replicated their neighbours' wealth and success, Tuff Moor would be full to overflowing every week.

Kevin Keegan, who was absent with flu, would not have commended his team's lack of ambition. Too many

players offered too little, Lee excepted, and the manager will have to buy wisely in the summer.

For every Georgie a rainstorm precedes a terrific rainbow, which is why Keegan was happy to return to St James' Park. In the manner of Gilbert Kaplan, the music-loving American publisher who wants to conduct the symphonies of Mahler and nobody else, Keegan wants to manage Newcastle United. Nothing else will do. There is no time for self-pity. On Sunday, Newcastle go to West Ham, who, by winning, would move to within a point of the leaders. After a little difficulty in the Cup, that is the sort of challenge which concentrates the mind wonderfully.

BLACKBURN ROVERS: R Mirams, D May, A Wright, T Shearer, C Hendry, A Mearns, M Adams, G Cowie, R Wegerle, M Newell, R Wilcox.
NEWCASTLE UNITED: P Snieck, B Venison, B Beardsford, L O'Brien, R Scott, B Kilcline, G Peacock, D Kelly, L Clark, P Sheedy (sub: J Bracken).
Referee: K Cooper (Pontypridd)

Tottenham happy to pull plug on unruly cup rivals

Tottenham Hotspur 3
Wimbledon 2

By CLIVE WHITE

GARY Lineker would have enjoyed watching Wimbledon yesterday — watching them lose, that is. The entertainment in a game that would have made compulsive viewing, even on CeeFax, for all Tottenham supporters, was provided exclusively by the North London club, which would not have been flattered had its three-goal half-time lead been sustained to the finish of this FA Cup fifth-round tie at White Hart Lane.

Wimbledon were a disappointment, even if they would

not have been to Lineker, who became embroiled in a war of words with the Wimbledon manager last week for saying he would rather watch CeeFax than Joe Kinnear's team.

Lineker would have felt vindicated by Wimbledon's performance. They lost this tie because of characteristic indiscipline that cost them three bookings in the space of six minutes immediately before two goals in three minutes by Tottenham, which effectively ended Wimbledon's interest in the competition this season.

Wimbledon competed on an equal footing with Tottenham for no more than 20 minutes of a match that started at a predictably fast and furious pace.

Tottenham were superior in just about every department, although their victory was undoubtedly founded on the twin central pillars of their defence, Ruddock and Mabbutt. But it was Tottenham's traditionally short, sweet-passing game that did for Wimbledon.

Wimbledon had gone more than six hours without conceding a goal so it was clearly going to take some inventive football to break down. Yet Spurs first goal after 25 minutes might have been taken straight out of the Wimbledon manual.

Ruddock hoisted the ball to the far post, where Barmby did well to nudge it back into the middle for Anderton to force home past Segers.

When Wimbledon had been asked beforehand in the dressing-room to turn down their ghetto blaster, they had responded by turning up the volume: when Tottenham pulled the plug on their power, the Dons sent out for batteries. This time they were well and truly disconnected.

Wimbledon began losing their discipline and their shape as Elkins, Holdsworth and McAllister were brought to book by Martin Bodenham. The pressure was steadily intensifying on Segers' goal.

Just as we were thinking that Spurs' skill warranted a goal, one arrived from a corner as Earle inadvertently nodded on Anderton's corner and Sheringham pounded home a header for his seventh goal in six games.

Wimbledon were on the ropes. Ruddock drilled another deep one to where McAllister nodded it straight out to Anderton, whose pinpoint cross was directed home with perfect accuracy by the head of Barmby.

Wimbledon grabbed an untidy goal in the 64th minute when Dobbs loathed under Thorstved following a melee and a second in injury time from a header by Cotterill, the substitute.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E Thorstved; D Austin, J Eastwood, V Samways, G Mabbutt, N Ruddock, D Holdsworth, B Barmby, D Anderton, T Sheringham, P Allen.
WIMBLEDON: H Segers; R Joseph (sub: S Cotterill, G Elkins, V Jones, J Scalls, B McAllister, M Earle, J Foshanu, D Holdsworth, G Dobbs).
Referee: M Bodenham.



High kickers: Barmby, left, of Tottenham, leaps to challenge Elkins, of Wimbledon, at White Hart Lane

Injured Wright awaits just reward

Arsenal 2
Nottingham Forest 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IAN Wright has done little wrong since his world caved in at White Hart Lane on December 12, when he struck out at David Howells, the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder player, and sentenced himself to an undignified trial by television and a subsequent three-match suspension.

Since that silly swipe, Wright has played 12 games, scored 12 times and not once walked on the wild side. An exemplary record and no easy feat for a jack-in-the-box character who thrives on hustle, bustle and the constant menacing of defenders.

Such clean living should have been rewarded with his first international goals for England against San Marino

at Wembley on Wednesday. Instead, he faces a worrying wait.

Wright had already earned Arsenal a place in the FA Cup quarter-finals at Highbury on Saturday with two goals of stunning quality. Chasing a hat-trick in injury time, when most would have been satisfied with their afternoon's work, he pulled a groin muscle and had to be helped off.

Nottingham Forest will again testify to the calibre of the England forward, who also scored twice against them in their 2-0 Coca-Cola Cup defeat by Arsenal last week. But for his fluent finishes this time around, in a messy and muddled fifth-round tie, they could have edged nearer fulfilling the final wish of Brian Clough.

Time is running out for the Forest manager to lift the FA Cup — the only leading trophy to have eluded him — and the

wastefulness of his son, Nigel, contributed to the latest knockout blow. Wright's superlative 21st-minute volley separated the teams but Forest had broken free of Arsenal's smothering midfield.

Bannister dispossessed Linighan and Keane swept in a tempting cross from the left, inviting Clough Jr to bury the ball with honours. Instead, he ballooned it high over the bar.

Eight minutes later, Wright pounced on Selley's pass, avoided Pearce, twisted Cheltie inside out and clipped his shot past Crossley via the crossbar for his 22nd goal of the season. On the Be Derek scale, it was a definite ten.

It also earned a respite for George Graham, the Arsenal manager, who was spared the task of trying to explain the inexplicable — why his side has slipped so far in the Premier League.

Graham, like Clough Sr, has yet to win his first FA Cup as a manager but with a last-eight place secure and a Coca-Cola Cup final berth as good as booked, his season is moving forward on a positive course. "There are three trophies to be won at the start of the season and we're still in with a chance of two of them," he said, quietly conceding that the championship will not nest in north London this year.

Clough's dream disappeared for another term on Saturday. Graham's is still alive and kicking, and Wright's is in the lap of the medical gods. The FA Cup never fails to inspire mixed emotions.

ARSENAL: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, G Hobb, A Linighan, J Jensen, I Wright (sub: S Monson), S Selley, J Watson, A Linighan (sub: K Campbell).
NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M Crossley, B Lawel, S Pearce, C Tiller, S Cheltie, R Keane, G Bannister, S Connolly, N Clough, N Webb (sub: G Crossley), I Wilson.
Referee: A Gurn.

Minnows left to flounder by big Cup fish

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHEFFIELD Wednesday and Ipswich Town negotiated potentially tricky FA Cup fifth-round hurdles with aplomb on Saturday to keep the minnows firmly in place.

Reluctant striker Paul Warhurst was again Wednesday's match-winner, scoring both goals in a 2-0 defeat of Southend United, the struggling first-division side, at Hillsborough. Warhurst, a converted central defender who says he does not particularly like his emergency front-line role, certainly looked competent enough as he took his tally to 12 goals, seven of them in the last five games.

It was Wednesday's eleventh win in 13 games — the other two were draws — and maintained their three-pronged assault on the leading honours.

Bontcho Guentchev went one better with a hat-trick — the first of his career — as Ipswich won 4-0 to end any hopes Grimsby Town might have harboured about producing an upset at Portman Road.

Out of the FA Cup limelight, Aston Villa stole a march — and a two-point lead over Manchester United — at the top of the Premier League by winning 1-0 against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Ray Houghton got the all-important goal, when a long clearance by Bosnich was headed by Dalian Atkinson, back in the side after missing eight games through injury, and missed by two Chelsea defenders.

To complete their misery, Chelsea, without a win in 1993, had their winger, Dennis Wise, carried off with what was first feared to be a broken foot. It was later revealed to be a recurrence of the ligament injury that had kept him out for the previous eight games.

Leeds United eased fears of the unthinkable — relegation — with a 2-0 victory over struggling Oldham Athletic at Elland Road. But it was at a cost for the champions. Shutt being taken to hospital with damaged blood vessels around a lung. Liverpool, though, continue to struggle, losing 2-1 to Southampton at The Dell. "I'm not a happy boy," Graeme Souness, their manager, said.

Short head keeps Rioch behind Cox

Derby County 3
Bolton Wanderers 1

By LOUISE TAYLOR

DERBY County's status as the only non-Premier League side in the sixth round of the FA Cup is chiefly thanks to central defenders. Their own £2.5 million No. 5, Craig Short, scored twice on Saturday when County recorded a flattering win against Bolton, who were without both regular centre halves.

Had Seagraves not been suspended and Winstanley injured, it might well have been the Wanderers who progressed to the quarter-finals. Instead, Bolton's makeshift backline failed to repel Pembroke's early free kick and Short headed beyond the advancing Branagan.

Walker equalised for Bolton with his 24th goal of the season and County lived dangerously until the 63rd minute. That was when Gabbadini headed on another Pembroke free kick and Short shot his second. A further goal from Williams, a speculation (Roddy Forsyth writes). Those who did were guaranteed a lively afternoon once Coyle scored for Airdrie, who are bottom of the premier division.

But McCoist scored twice to put the champions ahead at the interval and take him level with the postwar record of 206 league goals with one club, before Coyle's second earned Airdrie a point.

Struggling Falkirk were beaten 3-1 by Hearts at Tynecastle while Aberdeen and Celtic missed the opportunity to gain on Rangers by drawing 1-1 at Pittodrie.

Dundee United restored Duncan Ferguson to the side for their visit to Firhill, where he scored in their 4-0 victory over Partick Thistle.

Dundee overtook Partick when they beat St Johnstone at Dens Park, where Simon Stainrod scored the only goal.

Evergreen Reid drives gifted City on road to Wembley

Manchester City 2
Barnsley 0

By KEITH PIKE

THERE may be better teams than Manchester City left in the FA Cup but none better placed to win it. History, logic, and a greying 36-year-old, who can find his way to Wembley as easily as the England coach driver, dictate that Keith Curle will lift the trophy on May 15.

Peter Reid, the City player-manager, was not shouting the odds after their comfortable victory over Barnsley on Saturday, which took them into the sixth round for only the second time in 11 seasons. But City are in with a great chance and Reid, who appeared in three successive finals for Everton from 1984-6, must sense it.

History? No side has won the FA Cup and League Cup in the same season and, while Blackburn Rovers' hopes have gone flat, Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday are still fizzing along in the Coca-Cola.

Only five sides have completed the league and FA Cup double in 120 years, so fate is

also against Ipswich Town and Blackburn again, as it is against a side from outside the top division in Derby County. Sheffield United have survival rather than Cup success in mind. Tottenham? The year does not end in a one.

Logic? That leaves Manchester City. Their 1993 vintage might not have the craft of Summerbee, the graft of Bell, the goalscoring prowess of Lee or the languid touches of Young, whose goal past Peter Shilton won the Cup against Leicester City in 1969.

But they are single-minded — safe from relegation and, at

13 points behind Aston Villa, almost as certainly not in the running for the Premier League — and in form, with only one defeat in 12 games. They can also appear, as they did on Saturday, a gifted team led by a shrewd operator.

Reid's masterstroke was to play Gary Flitcroft, the highly talented youngster, at right back, nullifying the threat of Barnsley's potential match-winner, Rammell, and allowing him to launch City's raids down the flanks in harness with Phelan on the left.

With Curle looking every penny a £2.5 million defender, Quinn every inch a menacing 6ft 4in target man and Reid cajoling and prompting from midfield, City simply had too many guns for Barnsley. They also had White, recapturing the form that took him into the England team in September by scoring both goals. "We're on our way to Wembley," the City fans chanted. They might just be right.

MANCHESTER CITY: A Coen, P Reid (sub: A Hall, T Freeman, F Simpson, K Curle, M York, D White, M Sheeran, N Quinn, G Flitcroft, R Holden).
BARNSELEY: L Blair, M Robinson, G Bennett (sub: G Williams, C Dalton, G Tappin, B O'Connell, G Currie, A Bennett, A Lister (sub: W Biggins), N Redmond, O Archibald).
Referee: K Baratt.



Reid: masterstroke

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

Weekly change	P	Pts	Goal Diff	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Recent form
1 (+1) Aston Villa	29	53	+15	15 (9-6)	8 (3-5)	6 (2-4)	45 (28-17)	30 (13-17)	wwww
2 (-1) Manchester Utd	28	51	+20	14 (9-5)	9 (3-6)	5 (2-3)	42 (25-17)	22 (10-12)	wwwd
3 (0) Norwich	27	48	-1	14 (8-6)	6 (4-2)	7 (1-6)	40 (20-20)	41 (12-29)	cdwdw
4 (+1) Ipswich	28	43	+5	10 (6-4)	13 (7-6)	5 (1-4)	37 (22-15)	32 (15-17)	rwdd
5 (-1) Coventry	28	42	+6	11 (6-5)	9 (3-6)	8 (6-2)	44 (22-22)	38 (18-20)	ldwdd
6 (0) Blackburn	27	41	+10	11 (8-3)	8 (2-6)	8 (4-4)	40 (25-15)	30 (15-15)	ldwll
7 (+1) QPR	27	41	+5	11 (6-5)	8 (3-5)	8 (3-5)	37 (26-11)	32 (21-11)	wkddw
8 (-1) Manchester City	27	40	+9	11 (6-5)	7 (4-3)	9 (4-5)	39 (20-19)	30 (14-16)	cdwdd
9 (0) Sheffield Wed	26	39	+5	10 (6-4)	9 (4-5)	7 (3-4)	35 (20-15)	30 (16-14)	cdwddw
10 (+2) Tottenham	28	38	-7	10 (6-4)	8 (4-4)	10 (4-6)	32 (19-13)	39 (17-22)	ldwww
11 (-1) Chelsea	29	37	-4	9 (4-5)	10 (6-4)	10 (5-5)	32 (15-17)	36 (17-19)	ldldl
12 (+5) Southampton	29	36	-1	9 (7-2)	9 (5-4)	11 (3-8)	34 (21-13)	35 (12-22)	wwwdw
13 (-2) Arsenal	26	35	0	10 (6-4)	5 (3-2)	11 (6-6)	25 (16-9)	25 (12-13)	cdwll
14 (-1) Leeds	28	35	-1	9 (6-0)	8 (3-5)	11 (1-10)	41 (32-9)	42 (14-28)	wwdww
15 (-2) Liverpool	27	34	-1	9 (7-2)	7 (3-4)	11 (3-8)	38 (25-13)	39 (14-25)	ldwll
16 (0) Wimbledon	28	30	-3	8 (4-4)	9 (4-5)	11 (6-5)	33 (18-15)	36 (19-17)	cdwllw
17 (+2) Crystal Palace	28	33	-9	8 (4-4)	9 (5-4)	11 (6-5)	35 (17-18)	44 (18-26)	ldwww
18 (-4) Everton	28	32	-7	9 (4-5)	5 (4-1)	14 (8-8)	30 (13-17)	37 (17-20)	wwwll
19 (+1) Middlesbrough	28	30	-11	7 (6-1)	9 (4-5)	12 (4-8)	36 (21-16)	47 (16-32)	ldwll
20 (+2) Sheffield Utd	27	28	-9	7 (6-1)	7 (3-2)	13 (3-11)	27 (17-10)	36 (10-28)	ldwllw
21 (-1) Oldham	27	27	-12	7 (6-1)	6 (3-3)	14 (4-10)	38 (25-13)	50 (18-32)	ldwll
22 (-1) Nottm Forest	26	25	-9	6 (4-2)	7 (2-5)	13 (6-7)	26 (11-15)	35 (11-24)	ldwllw

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GRESHAM COLLEGE

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Further particulars are available from the Provost, Gresham College, Bernard's Inn Hall, Holborn, London EC1N 2HR. Tel: 071-831 0273 Fax: 071 831 5288.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 10th March 1993.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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The Nomination Committee, chaired by The Hon. Lord Clyde, now invites applications from individuals of suitable background and experience. The Committee would also like to hear from individuals wishing to suggest names for consideration.

All communications, including applications, should be directed in confidence and not later than 19 March 1993 to:

THE SECRETARY TO THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE, M J B LOWE, BSc, PhD,

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The University of Sheffield

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Applications are invited for appointment to the James Rossiter Hoyle Chair of Music which becomes available from 1 September 1993 following the retirement of Professor E J C Garden.

The University is seeking to appoint a scholar with a distinguished record of musical research and considerable administrative experience. Expertise as a performer will not be a requirement but applicants should be sympathetic towards practical performance as an element in the University music course, and to the study of historical performance as a subject for research.

Further particulars from the Director of Personnel Services, The University of Sheffield, PO Box 594, Fifth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2UH. Tel: 0742 824144.

to whom applications should be sent by 12 March 1993. Ref: B2101

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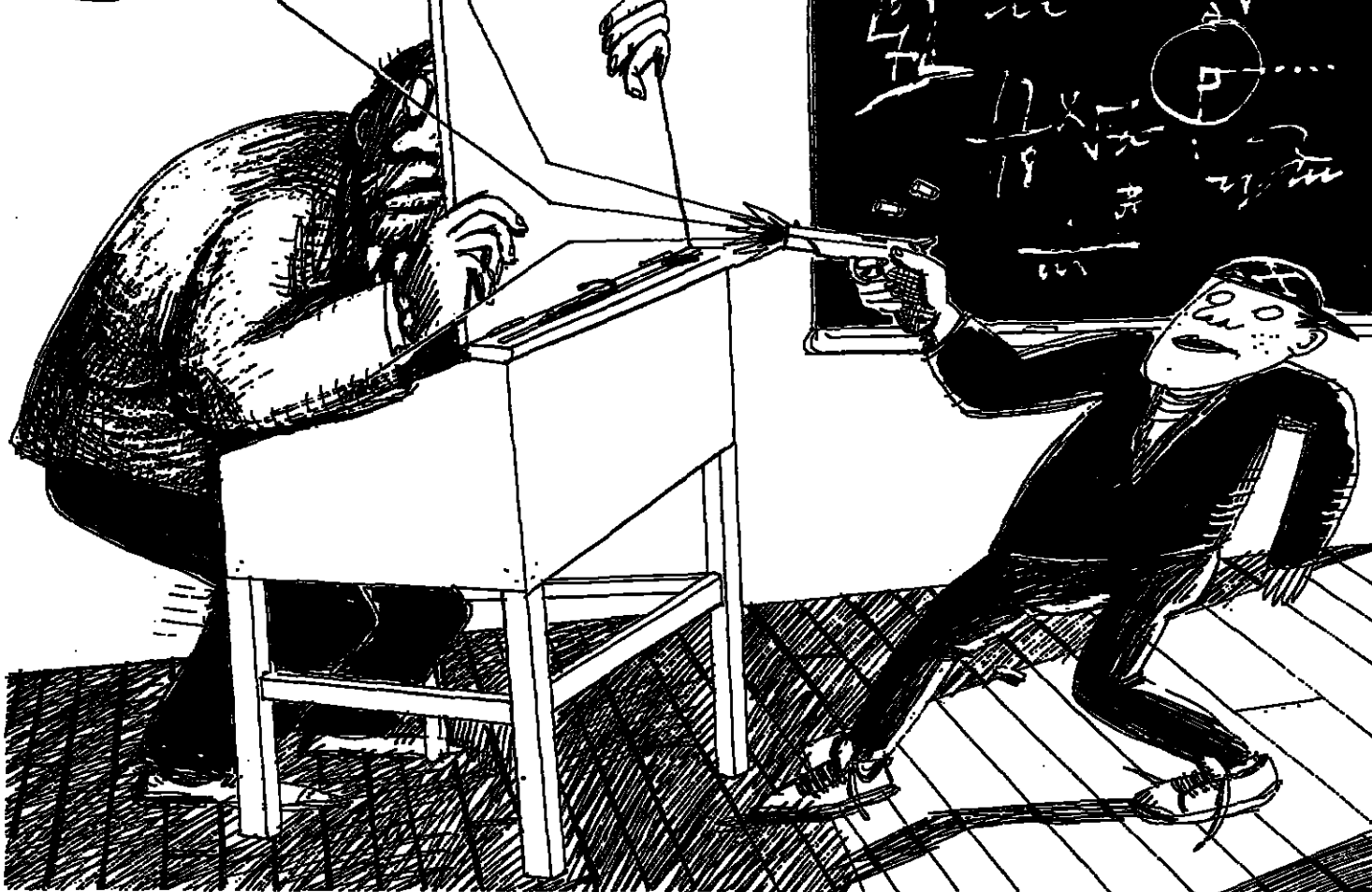
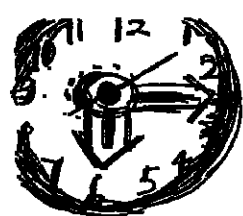
The term Common Law will be construed widely.

Appointment will be from 1 October, 1993, or as soon as possible thereafter.

EDUCATION

Teachers must learn to play safe

Streetwise pupils have found that they can use the Children Act to make the lives of school staff a misery. Ben Preston reports



It was over in seconds. Douglas Alder, a classroom teacher for almost three decades, watched the squabble between two boys turn into a fight. Without thinking he stepped in to push them apart. "One child was damaging another. As a teacher, as a responsible adult, I could not just ignore it and let it happen," he says.

Mr Alder (not his real name) vows he will never again make the mistake of trying to break up a classroom fracas. The boy who started the fight subsequently filed a complaint claiming he was hit and hurt in the intervention.

It took Mr Alder five months to get off the whirlwind disciplinary carousel set in motion by the allegation. On the strength of the word of one pupil — a known troublemaker — a teacher became the subject of a police investigation for child abuse and was suspended from his job for 14 weeks.

Such cases have increased dramatically since the Children Act became law a little more than a year ago. The act was primarily designed to protect individual children in "at risk" families and pupils in residential and special schools, a response to the Jasmine Beckford and Staffordshire pin-down scandals. It made protection of the child paramount, and put the onus firmly on treating all allegations seriously. However, concern is mounting at its impact on ordinary, neighbourhood schools and the fundamental change it is bringing to the relationship between teacher and pupil.

Allegations of abuse against members of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) have tripled to more than 50 since the act came into force, without any rise in the number of teacher convictions. Other unions have recorded similar increases. Teachers have been suspended after allegations arising from such commonplace incidents as encouraging a child to sit down by gently pushing his or her shoulder or physically preventing a pupil from running away from a telling off. In most cases, often after

months at home pending criminal investigations, or official enquiries by social workers and local authorities, they are exonerated.

As a result, the resounding welcome that greeted the Children Act is giving way to anxiety. Gill Sage, the ATL's solicitor, points to the apparent confusion among headteachers, the police and others in authority about the meaning of abuse — a loaded term with sinister connotations. They are apt to err on the side of caution by suspending teachers and ordering investigations of incidents which were never meant to be covered by the act, she says. "It is not a suitable weapon in the course of ordinary events at most schools. Separating fighting children should never be regarded as child abuse, it is a disciplinary matter for children, not for teachers."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, says that his members feel they are in a "heads you win, tails I lose situation". Heads are vulnerable to accusations of incompetence if they are not seen to respond quickly to allegations. "Yet when heads act with speed and suspend teachers, there are complaints saying they raised the temperature unnecessarily before conducting more detailed investigations."

Most worrying is the emergence of streetwise children who have realised that by making malicious allegations of abuse against teachers they can deflect attention from their misdemeanours. "It seems to be a sad reflection upon society that an act which is so desperately needed by all children at risk can be such a dangerous weapon in the hands of the few," Ms Sage says.

Teachers' vulnerability is such that all six unions are joining in a rare display of unity to advise teachers how to minimise the risk. It is this response to the Children Act which threatens to change classroom relations irrevocably.

An advisory code devised by the ATL signposts the road ahead. It warns teachers that they could face complaints of emotional abuse if a

child is restrained or disciplined too strongly, or allegations of physical abuse if they are too caring or demonstrative. Telling down young children after swimming, touching or embracing a pupil to try to console can all leave teachers open to allegations of sexual abuse.

If teachers are involved in a one-to-one situation, in a tutorial or music lesson, for example, the code advises that they ensure it is within school time and in the vicinity of other teachers and pupils. "Senior colleagues should be made aware of the nature, purpose and location of the meeting. If possible a door

should remain open and there should be a desk between the pupil and teachers." Teachers are also warned not to become too involved with a pupil's personal problems.

The days when teachers and pupils could develop friendships appear numbered. "Total professionalism is demanded where before there might have been familiarity. Under no circumstances must a teacher cross the boundary and offer physical comfort for fear it is misconstrued," Ms Sage says.

Such draconian advice comes too late for some and is unlikely to help others. Graham Wilkins (not his

real name) caught a 12-year-old boy queue-jumping in the rush for lunch. "I just put my hand on his chest and moved towards the back of the line. I thought nothing of it. I could have done the same that lunchtime to any of 600 pupils."

The boy later went to the police and claimed he had pushed in the chest, suffered marks to his neck and found it difficult to swallow for several days.

"For two-and-a-half months I had the stress and worry hanging over me while a groundless allegation, with no supporting evidence, was investigated to the letter and allowed

to run its course," says Mr Wilkins, a teacher for 17 years. "Even when it came to nothing, the fear is that it is a stain on your career, written in black and white somewhere."

For Mr Alder, the experience was searing. When the Crown Prosecution Service ruled he had no case to answer, the school instigated its own disciplinary hearing. He was cleared of gross misconduct but received a formal written warning for using "unreasonable restraint". Worn down by the events, but still protesting his innocence, Mr Alder decided not to appeal so that his life might return to normal.

Saved by the parents
An independent school has been given a fresh lease of life

Many independent schools pride themselves on tapping parental expertise, but Shebbear College, in north Devon, has placed its very survival in their hands.

The 150-year-old Methodist school was threatened with closure next September because of heavy financial losses. The governors announced without warning in December that the college, where fees are about £9,000 a year, would be merged with Edgell College, a sister school for girls at Bideford, 12 miles away.

Shebbear's debts were understood to be in the region of £700,000 and the number of boarders had declined from about 270 in the mid-1970s to 119. Amalgamation with Edgell, allowing Shebbear's 100-acre estate to be sold, was seen as the only way to stem continuing losses.

Parents and old boys had other ideas, however. They launched a campaign to save the school, and persuaded the governors to postpone a final decision until a rescue package could be produced. Advertising and the entrance examination were reinstated.

The recommendations of a six-strong review committee were produced in little more than a month, and accepted by the church last week. A new look Shebbear is to survive, with the committee members co-opted onto the board of governors.

Old boys who attended the school's annual reunion in London applauded as the headmaster, Russell Buley, promised to implement a cost-cutting package while maintaining the school's reputation. Administrative ties with the Methodist church will be loosened, and up to ten of the 96 staff will lose their jobs.

However, Dr Peter Vardy, who has five children at the school and who first proposed the establishment of a review committee, insists that the changes will be primarily educational. More use will be made of the spectacular rural location, for example through the addition of a riding school, extra subjects will be added at A level, and new links forged with Europe.

Dr Vardy says: "It would have cost more than £1 million to close the school, but we can make it financially viable with some savings. We hope to provide an educational package which will get the very best out of the pupils."

JOHN O'LEARY

CORRECTION

Harrogate Ladies' College no longer includes hats in its uniform, as incorrectly stated in an article on January 4.

Don't fund apartheid

Muslim-only state schools could be ethnically divisive

As the education bill proceeds through Parliament, there is one matter of the greatest importance that has not yet been adequately debated. In the long term, I believe the matter is of greater importance than opting out or the endlessly discussed state of the economy.

I refer to the prospect of Muslim schools in the state sector. Racial and religious harmony are vital for the future, and I believe that the setting up of Muslim schools under the education act would be a disaster.

Many Muslims recognise that their interests are best served by integration into British society, and would agree that such schools would be as much against their interests as against the interests of the rest of society.

Because most Muslims come from the ethnic minorities, the schools would in practice become ethnically as well as religiously divisive. We would be deliberately building apartheid into our schools and into our society. Instead of harmony and integration we would have division and strife.

It is argued that because we have Christian and a few Jewish schools it is only fair to have Muslim schools. The argument deserves an answer and I shall try to answer it in two ways.

First, it is an historical fact that we have many Christian schools from the days when we were a Christian nation and when the churches founded many of our great schools. These schools are a rich part of our national inheritance, and we cannot simply disinherit them or wish them away. They are a reminder that Christianity remains a foundation of our culture and our civilisation.

Secondly, to be fair and consistent towards the Mus-

lims and recognising that we are now a secular state, perhaps we should approve no more religious schools of any denomination in the state sector.

There are two other dangers with Muslim schools. Some Muslims regard girls as less important than boys. This raises the issue of less equal opportunities. There is, too, the danger that while Muslim schools would be subject to the national curriculum, some might gradually give priority to the teaching of Islam in preference to that curriculum.

Theoretically, the system of published results and inspections would discover any such trend.

VIEWPOINT

James Hutchings

but there would be a great and real danger that the authorities would back off from a confrontation which might prove inflammable — after all, in the past they backed off from criticising rotten school performance!

One of the serious concerns of the Muslim community is its desire for single-sex schools for its adolescent daughters. I think this is a valid aim that should be met by the provision of more single-sex schools. I am aware of many different views on this subject and that such provision would obviously unbalance the co-educational system.

Of course, religious bodies should be free to operate their own privately funded schools and, of course, Islam and other religions should be taught in state schools. However, to allow state-funded Muslim schools would be a disaster. Have we learnt nothing from our own success in achieving greater integration and tolerance than our continental neighbours?

If we lack the courage to prohibit this unnecessary proposal, we will reap the whirlwind in the future.

The author is a Birmingham city councillor

Every story has two sides

The debate over selection and parental choice has been brought to a head by two schools in Cumbria

There can be few more vivid examples of government education policy in action than the intense competition that has developed between Penrith's two secondary schools.

For the past two years, teachers at Ullswater High School have been preparing for the introduction of the pre-university examination system, the International Baccalaureate. The organisation which oversees the two-year course has accepted Ullswater's application, and funding has been agreed. All the scheme now needs is permission from John Patten, the education secretary.

The school, a comprehensive which teaches pupils up to the age of 16, has been waiting for more than a year to learn whether it can add on a sixth form. The decision has been a long time coming because the situation is not straightforward. Ullswater High is one of two schools at the heart of a selection debate. For years, Ullswater acted as a secondary modern to Pen-

rith's Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS). Teachers at Ullswater would select 40 per cent of their brightest pupils to go to QEGS from the age of 13. In 1990, when David Robinson became head of Ullswater, he stopped the practice. "We were not only losing the cream, if you like, but a good deal of the milk as well," he says.

In January of last year, just after Ullswater made its application to have its own sixth form, QEGS opted out and applied to take pupils from the age of 11 and not 13, as it had done previously. QEGS school also wants to select pupils on the basis of academic ability.

Both schools cover the same 500 square mile catchment area. Mr Patten has to decide on the age range of each school and on whether to allow QEGS to become selective. If he allows QEGS to select, Ullswater will effectively

revert to being an old-style secondary modern. Should this happen, its plans to teach the International Baccalaureate, which many consider to be more demanding than the equivalent three A levels, may be dented. The education department will not say when the decisions will be made.

Donald Fay, the head of QEGS, says that despite some local opposition to the idea of selection, no one has come up with any other means of dealing with over-subscription to his school. He sees selection, on the basis of school reports and work produced by pupils, as the logical answer.

Mr Robinson feels that the plans for his 1,200-pupil school are simply following on from the government's own commitment to post-16 education. Last Thursday the school held a further education convention for its 15-year-olds at which they signed up for International Baccalaureate courses. "We are challenging Mr Patten to give us the go-ahead to bring in his own policies," he says. "We have embarked on a programme that is now unstoppable in terms of promises made to young people and their parents. We will not go back on promises to our community."

The ethos of the school — of "broad education for the whole human being" — made the adoption of the International Baccalaureate "inevitable", he says. Ullswater will be the first school in Cumbria to adopt the system, whereby pupils follow six subjects and a range of other activities. Only 27 other schools in Britain offer the exam.

"This school is fighting to make parental choice a reality," Mr Robinson says. "The real issue here is whether schools choose parents and pupils or parents and pupils choose schools. We're asking the governor at the school, says that there was a "very strong desire for a fully functioning sixth form" among parents. He says that when it was suggested that the transfer of pupils to QEGS at 13 should be stopped, and the switch be made at 16 instead, parents

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said that if their children were to do GCSEs at Ullswater, they wanted them to stay on there for sixth-form studies. "Now," he says, "the school is seen as a clear alternative to the old grammar school."

The decision to offer the International Baccalaureate may be a sensible one, because it offers something new. It is still a brave one, however, for a school which has traditionally been seen as second choice for the area's academically inclined pupils.

Mr Robinson says: "Education needs a bit of bravery. History teaches us either to wait until the powers that be give the orders to march, or decide that something is so important that you start marching and wait for them to catch you up."

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Brave choice: Hilary Lanham talks to pupils at Ullswater High

with a deft harmonic sidestep, and thus elongating phrases into whole paragraphs.

RICHARD MORRISON

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Whether term is penalty clause

Philips Hong Kong Ltd v Attorney-General of Hong Kong

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Woolf and Sir Christopher Slade
(Judgment February 9)

It would not normally be sufficient, in order to prove that a provision in a commercial contract for liquidated damages for delay was in fact an unenforceable penalty clause, for the party to rely on hypothetical situations where the application of the clause would result in the damages payable being substantially more than the loss that would be suffered.

The Privy Council so held in dismissing an appeal by Philips Hong Kong Ltd from the decision of the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong on April 24, 1991 allowing an appeal by the Attorney-General of Hong Kong from the order of Mr Justice Mayo declaring, *inter alia*, that Philips were not liable to pay the Attorney-General liquidated damages for delay to completion of contract works.

Mr Nicholas Dennis, QC and Mr John Scott, of the Hong Kong Bar, for Philips; Mr Richard Fernyhough, QC, for the Attorney-General of Hong Kong.

LORD WOOLF, delivering the judgment of the Board, said that the appeal raised the issue as to the approach which the courts should adopt in determining whether a

clause in a commercial contract was unenforceable as being penal in effect.

Philips had sought a ruling, prior to arbitration, upon the provisions contained in a contract with the Government of Hong Kong in connection with the construction of a highway project.

At the present stage it had not been suggested that the sum claimed by the government by way of liquidated damages was in fact exorbitant in view of the substantial delay which had occurred in the execution of the contract by Philips.

Instead the argument had been based on what could have happened in a number of different hypothetical situations, where the sum payable would have been wholly out of proportion to any loss which the government was likely to suffer in those situations. It was said that those situations were penal in effect.

LORD DONALD had stated in *Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co Ltd v New Garage & Motor Co* (1915) AC 79, 80: "The essence of a penalty is a payment of money stipulated as in terrorem of the offending party; the essence of liquidated damages is a genuine pre-estimate of damage."

"The question whether a sum stipulated is penalty or liquidated damages is a question of construction to be decided upon the terms

and inherent circumstances of each particular contract, judged of as at the time of the making of the contract, not as at the time of the breach."

In the Supreme Court of Canada it was said in *Elsey v J. G. Collins Insurance Agencies Ltd* (1978) 83 DLR 1, 151: "... the power to strike down a penalty clause is a blunt instrument with freedom of contract and is designed for the sole purpose of providing relief against oppression for the party having to pay the stipulated sum. It has no place where there is no oppression."

Except possibly in the case of situations where one of the parties to the contract was able to dominate the other as to the choice of the terms of a contract, it would normally be insufficient to establish that a provision was enforceable to identify situations where the application of the provision could result in a larger sum being recovered by the injured party than its actual loss.

Even in such situations, so long as the sum payable in the event of non-compliance with the contract was not extravagant, having regard to the range of losses that it could reasonably be anticipated, it would have to be covered at the time the contract was made. It could still be a genuine pre-estimate of the loss that would be suffered and so a perfectly valid liquidated damage provision.

The use in argument of unlikely

illustrations therefore not assist a party to defeat a provision as to liquidated damages.

A difficulty could arise where the range of possible loss was broad, where it should be obvious that, in relation to part of the range, the liquidated damages were totally out of proportion to certain of the losses which might be incurred, the failure to make special provision for those losses might result in the "liquidated damages" not being recoverable.

However, the court had to be careful not to set too stringent a standard and bear in mind that what the parties had agreed should normally be upheld. Any other approach would lead to undesirable uncertainty, especially in commercial contracts.

The fact that the issue had to be determined objectively, judging as at the date the contract was made, did not mean that what actually happened subsequently was irrelevant.

On the contrary, it could provide valuable evidence as to what could reasonably have been expected to be the loss at the time the contract was made.

Having considered the evidence in the present appeal His Lordship concluded that Philips had not established that the provisions in the contract were penal.

Solicitors: Lawrence Graham for Wilkinson & Grist, Hong Kong; Macfarlanes.

Fairness not relevant in extradition

Regina v Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Lee

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Ognall
(Judgment February 4)

In an extradition hearing, the stipendiary magistrate was required to examine only the evidence before him and not to enquire into what other possible evidence might arise in different circumstances. Provided that there had been compliance with the terms of the Extradition Act 1989, fairness was not a criterion relevant to the function of the committing court.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing an application for a writ of *habeas corpus* under the 1989 Act and a renewed application for judicial review, heard together, of *Wai Kit Lee* against his commitment on May 18, 1992 by Mr R. O'Connor, a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, to await the decision of the Secretary of State in respect of three charges of kidnapping, false imprisonment and blackmail, allegedly committed by him in Hong Kong.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC and Mr James Montgomery for the applicant; Mr Kevin de Haan for the Hong Kong Government.

MR JUSTICE OGNALL, giving the judgment of the court, said that the magistrate was requested to adjourn the proceedings: (a) to cross-examine two alleged accomplices, (b) to secure documents in Hong Kong which might be relevant to the credibility of those witnesses, and (c) to call expert evidence concerning the effect on the applicant of the resumption of sovereignty by the People's Republic of China on July 1, 1997.

The first point was not pursued. On the second, the accomplices had made written statements following their arrest in Hong Kong and the applicant submitted that if other statements by them existed or records of interviews with the police existed then the magistrate had a duty to receive such evidence and take it into account before committing the applicant for extradition.

No authority was produced for that proposition. Its basis was the duty of the prosecution in English courts to furnish the defence with

all unused material. That was a principle of long standing: see *Attorney-General's Guidelines* (1981) 74 Crim App R 302 and *R v Ward* (The Times June 8, 1992).

Section 9(8A) of the 1989 Act provided that the court had to be satisfied that "the evidence would be sufficient to warrant his trial in the extradition crime had taken place within the jurisdiction of the court".

It was submitted that the committing magistrate had to take account of the evidence sought which might render the affirmations of the accomplices credible. It was said that otherwise he would be operating as little more than a rubber stamp; also that it should be the requesting state's duty to furnish the magistrate with unused material.

The court noted that on April 10, 1992 the prosecuting authority, writing in reply to a request for copies of earlier statements, told the applicant's solicitors that he would, on his return, receive all the material to which he was entitled by law.

Mr de Haan told the court that the *Attorney-General's Guidelines* were applied in the criminal jurisdiction of Hong Kong.

Extradition was entirely the creature of statute. The requesting state had to be the initiator of what material it put before the court in support of its application and in purported compliance with the relevant domestic legislation.

It alone decided what material it placed before the Secretary of State and the court under section 7 and 9 of the Act. It took the risk that inadequate evidence would mean the request for extradition would be refused.

Neither principles of comity nor the express terms of the Act afforded the court in this country any right, still less any power, to require further material as a condition precedent to commitment.

Commitment for extradition was not part of the court's trial process. By section 9(2) the court of commitment "shall have the like jurisdiction and powers, as nearly as may be, as a magistrate's court acting as examining justices".

Whether or not it was correct that it was a duty on the crown to furnish unused material at the

committal stage, it was clear from section 9(2) that extradition commitment was akin to domestic commitment only "as nearly as may be". That was "as nearly as may be" consistent with the terms and purpose of the extradition legislation and regard should be had to the magistrate's limited function as defined by section 9(8A).

That required the magistrate to examine the evidence presently before him and not embark on enquiries as to the nature of any other suggested evidence which might be before him in other circumstances.

As Mr de Haan reminded the court, in all but the rarest cases the court considered the evidence on paper. To suggest that even if available the court should weigh paper against paper of itself demonstrated the unsoundness of the applicant's argument.

R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Alives (The Times November 3, 1992; [1992] 3 WLR 844) might provide a sufficient basis for rejecting the applicant's argument that section 9(4) or any other part of the Act entitled the court to focus not solely upon the time that the request was made and the undertaking given but into the future.

That would drive a coach and horses through the principle of comity and reciprocity underlying the basis of extradition. Specialised protection had to be seen in the light of the possibility of change in the complexion of the requesting sovereign power, whether democratic or otherwise, but that could not mean that the court was to look outside the framework of the protection undertaken at the time of the request.

To do so would be to act in defiance of the treaty with the requesting state and also would require the court to go outside the clear terms of section 9(4).

It should be remembered that the magistrate committed the applicant to await the decision of the Secretary of State.

It might well be that the "China point" had a political dimension which deserved the attention of the Secretary of State but the magistrate was correct to treat it as irrelevant to his decision.

Solicitors: Whitelock & Storr; Madarlanes.

Deception through systematic overcharging

Regina v Jones (Ivor)

Before Lord Justice of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Auld and Mr Justice Cusack
(Judgment January 28)

A milkman whose weekly overcharging bills for crates of milk in bottles were paid for years on end without question, failed in an appeal against conviction for obtaining property by deception from the man from whom he had looked on the milkman as a friend.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, dismissed an appeal brought on a point of law by Ivor Llewellyn Jones, aged 62, of Richmond Road, Newport, Gwent, who had changed his plea to guilty on five counts of deception, contrary to section 15(1) of the Theft Act 1968 at Newport Crown Court, where a two-year probation order was made by Mr Recorder Beddingfield.

The plea was changed after the recorder's ruling rejecting a submission of no case to answer on the ground that the appellant had not deceived the loser, Mr Kim David Wilford, the owner of a corner shop in Newport.

Section 15(1) provides that an offence is committed by a person if he by any deception dishonestly obtains property belonging to another, with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it.

At the crown court the appellant formally admitted that he was dishonest. The question was whether he had deceived Mr Wilford.

Miss Jennet Trehearne, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Peter Murphy for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE AULD, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant was a self-employed milkman who sold milk wholesale and retail to established customers. He had supplied the loser's family business for 20 years. The relationship was casual and informal and Mr Wilford paid by cheque at the end of each week the amount of the milk bill.

About six years ago the business was apparently ailing and the staff and main suppliers were investigated. At last, in desperation Mr Wilford checked the milk bills. He

had been charged between £340 and £350 a week.

After the appellant's arrest the weekly charges for the same amount of milk were between £160 and £170.

Mr Wilford in evidence said that he had never considered the amount he was paying for the milk because he trusted the appellant. He had thought that he was making a profit on the sale of milk and that the appellant had been charging the proper cost price to a retailer.

The nature of the deception formulated in the indictment was that the appellant had falsely represented to Mr Wilford that he had received goods to the value of a certain amount when in fact the appellant had only delivered goods to the value of one-half of that amount.

Miss Trehearne relied on *R v Silverman* (1988) 86 Cr App R 214, a successful appeal against conviction for contravention of section 15(1).

However, that case concerned the acceptance by gullible old ladies of a grossly excessive quotation for work by builders and Lord Justice Watkins, giving the judgment of the court, said that in circumstances of mutual trust, one party depending on the other for fair and reasonable conduct, the criminal law may apply if one party takes dishonest advantage of the other by representing as a fair charge that which he but not the other knows is dishonestly excessive.

In *Silverman* reference was made to *Scrimgeour* (1974) AC 370, 379 where Lord Reid said that a man intending to deceive could build up a situation in which his silence was as eloquent as an express statement.

Although Mr Wilford had not been gullible in the sense that the old ladies had been in *Silverman*, he had been reasonably stupid or careless and it was simply or carelessness which the appellant was aware. There could be no doubt that Mr Wilford was deceived.

The recorder's ruling was correct and the appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: CPS, Newport, Gwent.

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The recorder's ruling was correct and the appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: CPS, Newport, Gwent.

Bus company not liable over fatality

Topp v London Country Bus (South West Ltd)

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Peter Gibson
(Judgment January 29)

A bus company did not owe a duty of care to a cyclist who was knocked down and killed by an unknown third party who was cycling home on a road from work.

In accordance with the company's usual practice, the bus had been parked in a lay-by outside the White Horse public house, which was opposite Epsom District Hospital. The driver had left the bus unattended at about 2.35pm that day. The bus was unlocked with the ignition key in it. He was to have a 40-minute break before driving another bus.

The expectation was that another driver would pick up the parked bus within eight minutes and drive the same route but he did not do so because he was unwell. It was reported to the depot that the bus had not been picked up but nothing was done before the bus was stolen.

The plaintiff's claim was founded in negligence on the basis that the defendant, knowing that the bus might be stolen and driven dangerously, was in breach of duty in failing to collect the bus or to render it incapable of being driven away by unauthorised persons.

In so far as the case was put on the basis that leaving the bus with the key in the ignition switch was to create a special risk, it was pertinent to refer to *P. Perl (Exporters Ltd) v Camden London Borough Council* (1984) QB 342, 359.

The cases referred to in that case were far different from the present. There was no evidence in the instant case that the defendant had been frequenting the public house, nor was there any presumption that persons frequenting the public house were likely to steal vehicles.

There was no valid distinction between the present and *Perl*. The defendant was not negligent in leaving the bus with the key in the ignition switch. It was reported to the depot that the bus had not been picked up but nothing was done before the bus was stolen.

The defendant ran a bus service in the Epsom region and one of the buses, a Leyland Sherpa minibus, was hijacked by a third party, who had since not been identified, at about 11pm on April 25, 1988. Shortly afterwards the bus knocked down and killed the deceased, who was cycling home on a road from work.

In accordance with the company's usual practice, the bus had been parked in a lay-by outside the White Horse public house, which was opposite Epsom District Hospital. The driver had left the bus unattended at about 2.35pm that day. The bus was unlocked with the ignition key in it. He was to have a 40-minute break before driving another bus.

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There was no valid distinction between the present and *Perl*. The defendant was not negligent in leaving the bus with the key in the ignition switch. It was reported to the depot that the bus had not been picked up but nothing was done before the bus was stolen.

It collided with a parked motor car. It was held that the bus company owed no duty of care to the plaintiff owner of the car and his claim failed.

All such cases in a sense depended on their own facts but it was inevitable to consider what valid distinctions there could be between them. There were none between the present case and *Denton's* case. It did not matter that in the present case the bus was parked on the highway.

In *Smith v Littlewoods Organisation Ltd* (1987) AC 41, 58 Lord MacKay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, pointed out that the determination of the question whether there was a duty to protect against the wrongful act of a third party was a matter for the judges of fact.

There was no basis for interfering with the judge's decision in the present case.

Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Peter Gibson delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Howell-Jones & Partners, Walton on Thames; Cripps Harries Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

Power to order re-trial in county court

O'Connor v Din

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Peter Gibson
(Judgment February 9)

The High Court had jurisdiction to entertain an application from a party to a judgment in the county court that the judgment be set aside and a new trial in the county court on the basis of the availability of material and admissible fresh evidence which was not before the trial court.

Nevertheless, the normal and proper route was to apply to the county court judge for a rehearing under Order 37, rule 1 of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687 (L20)) rather than by application to the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of the defendant, Mohamed Din, from Judge Hirst's decision in *Berford County Court* who, on June 16, 1992 gave judgment for the plaintiff, Miss S. O'Connor, in the sum of £1,200 damages in her claim for an injunction that the defendant readmit and allow the plaintiff to remain as a tenant in a flat at 90 Churchfield Road, Acton, from which she alleged she had been wrongfully evicted. The court ordered a new trial admitting the new evidence.

Mr Gary Webber for the defendant; Mr Ian Lewis for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that the case turned on the resolution of a fundamental conflict of evidence. The plaintiff alleged that she was wrongfully evicted from the premises and her belongings thrown into the street outside the defendant that she had left in an

orderly fashion and packed her own belongings.

The judge who had to rely on the evidence before him accepted the plaintiff's evidence and gave judgment for her. The defendant now sought to adduce the evidence of a police constable who was present at the time of the eviction, which evidence had not been available at the date of the trial.

Mr Lewis submitted that the court had no jurisdiction to entertain the appeal in view of Order 37, rule 1 and of *Weinbaum v Klein* (1950) 1 All ER 353, 354 where Lord Eversham, Master of the Rolls had held that under section 105 of the County Courts Act 1934 fresh evidence could not be adduced at the hearing of an appeal in a county court case.

Mr Webber contended that the court had no longer applicable in view of the wording of the present section 77 of the County Courts Act 1984.

His Lordship said that the powers and scope of appeal which were limited to the 1934 Act were now considerably wider under section 77 of the 1984 Act and applied to any party in any proceedings in the county court with a right of appeal "if ... dissatisfied with the determination of the judge".

The edition of *The Supreme Court Practice* 1993 suggested at Note 59/19/12, entitled "Fresh evidence in county court cases" (at p1028) that *Weinbaum* had been superseded by changes in the county court legislation and Mr Webber relied on that now.

His Lordship said that the word "determination" in section 77 of the 1984 Act meant the judge's

conclusion including his order, and it could not be construed as meaning his reasons. Nor was it appropriate in the construction of the section to insert limiting words which were not present there.

The reasoning in Note 59/19/12 could not be improved on as showing why, as his Lordship held, *Weinbaum* was no longer applicable and no longer precluded in principle an appeal to the Court of Appeal when confined to one relating to the introduction of new evidence.

His Lordship stressed that the normal and proper route was to apply to the county court judge for a rehearing under Order 37, rule 1 rather than coming to the Court of Appeal, although there might be exceptional cases for the appeal route.

It was inappropriate in the instant case for the court to decide to hear the appeal and leave it to the appellant to apply to the county court judge under Order 37, rule 1.

Having considered whether the fresh evidence sought to be introduced satisfied the three conditions set out in *Ladd v Marshall* (1954) 1 WLR 1489, 1491, His Lordship concluded that the defendant had established the three conditions and the evidence should be admitted.

MR JUSTICE PETER GIBSON, agreeing, added that he had nothing on the correctness of the submissions in Note 59/19/12 that the decision in *Weinbaum* would continue to apply to cases where the appeal to the Court of Appeal was confined to questions of law, for example, cases within section 77(6) of the County Courts Act 1984.

Lord Justice Hirst agreed. Solicitors: Aslam Heath & Co, Acton; J. R. Jones & Co, Ealing.

to grant consent to the felling of trees covered by tree preservation orders and certifying that such refusal was in the interests of good forestry management and that the trees had outstanding amenity value.

His Lordship said that there was no obligation for consultation as there was in applications for planning permission.

The inspector was perfectly entitled within his discretion, in the absence of evidence put forward by the applicant or his advisers as to the precise nature and extent of the tree felling proposal, to treat the application as one for clear felling.

Bachelor v Secretary of State for the Environment

While it was open to an inspector of the Department of the Environment, when considering an appeal against tree preservation orders and replanting orders, to allow time for consultation so that a notice of appeal might be treated as an amended application, there was no obligation to do so.

Mr Justice Poppelwell so held in the Queen's Bench Division on January 28 when dismissing an appeal by Hubert Bachelor from a decision of the Secretary of State to uphold the refusal of an inspector

to grant consent to the felling of trees covered by tree preservation orders and certifying that such refusal was in the interests of good forestry management and that the trees had outstanding amenity value.

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Unemployment ousts inflation as public enemy number one

Janet Bush reports

There is no doubt that inflation will re-emerge at some stage. There is every reason to believe that Britain's employees and companies will react to recovery much as they have always done. Margins will expand again and wage demands will become more confident. According to Ray Barrell, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, there is no empirical



Gizza job: Gillian Shephard, employment secretary, being challenged by an angry unemployed man during a visit to a Job Centre

No one wants to sow the seeds of yet another British wage/price spiral but, for a number of reasons, Mr Major's decision in favour of growth is the right one. It remains vital that queasiness about a bit more inflation should not be allowed to put him off course. The

ing inflation will exceed the government's 4 per cent upper limit later this year as the devaluation effect feeds through, but judging by Friday's RPI figures, there may be more deflation in the system than economists had reckoned with. More light will be shed on

The balancing act, of course, is to prevent inflationary psychology taking hold, and that means feeding through into wage demands. These are now, of course, at extremely subdued levels with the CBI reporting an average level for manufacturing pay settlements in the fourth quarter of 2.8 per cent, the lowest for 12 years.

There is a danger that the solution to one side of the economic equation unbalances another. That is something the government should bear in mind when considering cuts in social security budget. The staff at the Neasden centre do not need any more paranoia.

The question Lloyds faces ever more urgently is where it can go to create more value for shareholders. It needs a substantial acquisition: with its shares valued at more than 2½ times net assets it has the means to do this. The difficult question is what it should buy. TSB's customer base is too small and the bank has already explored most of the benefits of selling life assurance to a captive customer base. A bid for

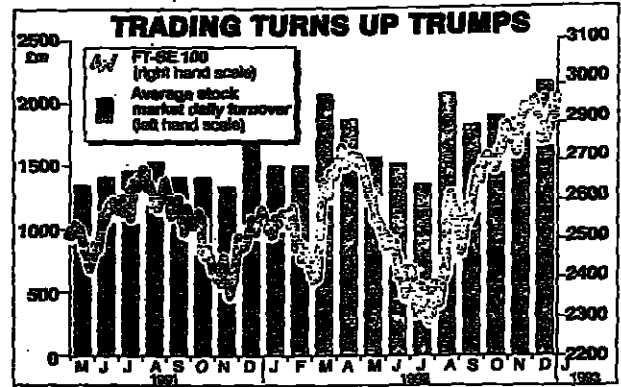
The City is showing its unease about Lloyds' future. Since new year, the shares have performed worse than every other bank stock except Abbey National. Mr Pitman needs to find an answer soon.

Some of the additional business is coming from overseas investors, which regard British equities as a combined equity and currency play. Most of the rest is being generated in second-line stocks, often accounting for 65 per cent of total turnover.

Private investors who have grown dissatisfied with the low returns on their deposit accounts are once again following the advice of small company tipsters. Retail brokers report that the ratio of

Ironically, these are the stocks that were abandoned last year by many securities firms, including Warburg Securities and UBS Phillips & Drew. The few houses that soldiered on, such as Winterflood and Smith New Court, are now reaping the benefit. The City's existing

They should think again. New capacity will push staff costs skyward while a sharp correction in share prices is likely to knock trading volumes back to the dismal levels of the past five years.



Share prices in the sector are driven by sentiment, and that sentiment is unlikely to improve while uncertainty

Tratagar's shares have been resilient considering last week's unpleasant revelations. But the mysterious Swiss institution will soon

Yours faithfully,
TOM CROSS,
14 Windmill Drive, Audlem,
Cheshire.

and unincorporated associations to deposit third-party cheques with the express or implied endorsement, as in America, "prior endorsements guaranteed".

BRIAN KESTER,
42 Chemin de Chantefleur,
1234 Vevy, Switzerland

re income with some private investment. Among the elderly there is, due to so many financial scandals, a growing concern for the safety of their nest egg, so they are looking for an absolutely safe invest-

The government needs the money to help furnish the SBR, and pensioners would also benefit from the extra income from such a safe deposit. The gilts could also be sold directly over the post

I feel if this suggestion were put into practice, it would help water the "green shoots of recovery", as, no doubt, the additional income thus generated would be spent and go straight back into the economy.

Yours faithfully,
H. EDELMAN,
Barleydale, Felsham,
Bury St. Edmunds.

BELEAGUERED as much by bad publicity as bad debt, the clearing banks could use some skilled PR advice. Step up Charles Ponsonby, the former BZW corporate financier, who has launched Curzon Finan-

ABRUPT career changes, it appears, are not limited to the banking world. Alan Gordon, the market-maker who prefers to be known as "Klinger" — "because most people don't know my real name" — has joined the headhunting firm Elizabeth Sullivan Associates.

**"If our other charges
don't put you in the red,
we shall charge you"**

IT MAY not be a high street price war, but even the most notorious of City watering holes are outdoing themselves in the effort to win business from their rivals during the recession. Corney & Barrow, the City wine merchant, is offering a celebratory discount every time England score a goal in the football international against San Marino at Wembley on Wednesday. Each time England score, drinkers will be awarded a cumulative 5 per cent discount on their

JAPANESE government planners hoping that teenagers will spend the country out of economic downturn are in for a disappointment. Big spenders in the 1980s, the young Japanese are still splashing out — but on piggy banks. The Seibu retail chain in Tokyo says that in December one store sold six times more piggy banks than in the average month, and Tokyudo Hands, another big store, reports that sales this year are at three times last year's rate. The most popular bank is bucket-shaped with the message: "Bank to save 1 million yen."

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Studying economics

From Mr Tom Cross
Sir, Anthony Harris (February 9) refers to William of Ockham rightly pointing out that he would have deplored the array of explanations from economic thought that offer interesting insights but few satisfactory answers. He would also

even validity, remains open. The "things" that economics could study to improve its credentials are people and their contribution, or lack of it for a variety of reasons, to the economic process and its outcome. Supply/demand, movement of capital, marketing, etc. are consequences of their

paying into a current account in many English banks cheques with technical defects. There is even less of a problem paying such cheques into continental banks, which cannot be expected to know the arcane rules applying in England and are quite satisfied so long as a cheque is honoured at the other end. It would make sense to have an explicit rule allowing firms

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ECONOMIC VIEW 34

JANET BUSH ON THE
NEED TO BALANCE
JOBS AND INFLATION

BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15 1993

TIME TO SHOP 34
TEMPUS SAYS LLOYDS
MUST BUY TO
CREATE MORE VALUE

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Ministers told not to let pound slump further

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE government must prevent sterling from falling from current levels or run the risk that inflation will rise above the 4 per cent official target, the London Business School says in its latest economic outlook. It is important that last September's devaluation should not be the precursor of a general downward trend, the LBS says.

One of the report's authors is David Currie, the LBS's professor of economics. Professor Currie also sits on the government's independent forecasting panel, which met last week for the first time and is expected to present its report to the Chancellor this week.

The more interest rates are lowered, to stimulate recovery, the greater the risk that they will have to be raised either this year or in 1994, the report says. The authors suggest that the economy will move out of recession this year, with growth of about 1.4 per cent, but add that considerable problems remain with the public sector deficit and the balance of payments. Higher inflation remains a risk.

The LBS has raised its growth forecast by half a percentage point since October, because the government's approach on interest rates has been far less cautious than expected. It predicts that base rates will be cut by another percentage point, to 5 per cent, to coincide with the Budget on

■ Economic recovery will gather pace this year but there are severe problems still for the government to tackle, says a leading team of forecasters

March 16. However, the LBS believes that 5 per cent may prove to be the floor for interest rates, particularly if, as rumoured, the prime minister has vetoed tax increases in the Budget for fear of derailing a fragile recovery.

If the trend in base rates is upwards by the end of the year — and the LBS predicts 6 per cent then, peaking at 9 per cent by the end of 1994 — underlying inflation can be contained at 4 per cent this year, but will rise to 5 per cent in 1994.

A positive surprise, the report says, has been the downward trend in wage settlements, currently running at about 3 per cent. As employment falls and productivity rises, companies are keeping tight control on labour costs. That will "permit a significant improvement in profits, which we see rising 10 per cent to 15 per cent a year".

A serious concern is the public sector deficit. The LBS forecasts a public sector borrowing requirement of £49.5 billion in fiscal 1993-4, compared with the £44 billion projection the government made in the autumn. The report says the only realistic way of tackling the deficit, which is structural in nature, is to raise taxes. It recommends, however, that this should wait

until the unified budget in December.

The LBS is also pessimistic on the current account, forecasting a deficit of £19.8 billion this year and £19.9 billion in 1994, up sharply from the £11.8 billion shortfall recorded in 1992 and exceeding the government's £15 billion forecast for this year. Exports are expected to do well over the next two years, helped by the devaluation, but imports will continue at a high level, both in volume and in price terms.

The impending recovery is likely to be different from previous ones, with the consumer remaining subdued and manufacturing industry providing the power. The report comments that a consumer-led recovery is not necessarily desirable and forecasts that consumption will rise by only 1 per cent this year. Unemployment will remain high, despite recovery, according to the LBS. It is expected to hit 3.2 million this year and to decline gradually to 2.9 million by the end of 1996.

Building societies and the government are heading for a fundraising battle as both try to satisfy their requirements for 1993 (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The building societies are set to tap the wholesale market for fresh funds as a result of the £3.5 billion of existing debt that comes up for maturity during 1993. Of this debt, £2 billion is in the form of floating-rate notes and £1.5 billion in fixed-rate bonds.

Analysts expect the government to raise about £1 billion a week in the gilt market to finance the public sector borrowing requirement.

Gerald Gregory, treasurer at Britannia Building Society, said: "There is a finite pot of money available in the market and we are competing with the government for it."

Economic View, page 34



Casting a light on industry's problems: Kevin Verdun, chief executive of the Lighting Association, who yesterday called for an interest rate cut

Interest rate cut needed to lighten work

By SARAH BAGNALL

BRITAIN'S £2 billion lighting industry is calling for a 1 per cent cut in base rates to help recovery in the recession-hit sector.

Kevin Verdun, chief executive of the Lighting Association, said interest rates needed to be cut further to bolster the "confidence of the man in the street". At the opening of The European Lightshow, at Earls Court, he added that for benefits to feed through to manufacturers the banks must pass on the interest rate cut immediately to customers, rather than delaying three months.

Mr Verdun also suggested that the government should adopt the German system of two separate rates, one for the manufacturing industry and one for borrowers generally.

More than 170 lighting companies are exhibiting at the show. About 20,000 people are expected to attend.

Vickers loses \$3.5bn UAE order for tanks to France

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

VICKERS has lost out on another substantial Middle East market for its Challenger 2 tank after the award of a \$3.5 billion order from the United Arab Emirates for more than 400 tanks to France.

The Challenger 2 was known to be running in third place behind the Leclerc tank, made by France's state-owned GIAT Industries, and the American Abrams M1A2 made by General Dynamics Corp. Gamal al-Siwaidi, UAE defence spokesman, announced the award at Abu Dhabi's first international defence exhibition, saying the emirates would take 390 French battle tanks and 46 support and recovery vehicles.

Vickers played down the prospect of job losses as a result of the UAE decision, but Opposition politicians claimed the future of the

company's two plants, in Newcastle and Leeds, could be at risk. Vickers said: "There will be no anticipated lay-offs — certain champions of our cause tend to be more aggressive than we would be. It's got to be a major disappointment, but in terms of the business at the moment we will survive."

Vickers had not expected to be successful, while the French had been seen as the probable winners, not least because of the UAE's preference for French arms and the substantial amounts its government has invested in helping develop a variant of the Leclerc that would use a German-made engine.

Vickers said: "Obviously we would like to see more major orders, but the two sites have enough work to keep them going — times are hard, but it's not going to be a fatal blow to either site." The sites em-

ploy 1,800 people between them. Vickers still has high hopes of selling its lighter Mark 7 tank, made at Newcastle and Leeds, to an African country, probably Nigeria, and for its Challenger armoured repair and recovery vehicle.

The company last year lost Kuwait's \$4.5 billion order for 256 tanks to General Dynamics' M1A2, although it did win a \$300 million deal to provide Challenger to Oman.

David Clark, Labour's defence spokesman, said the loss of the UAE order was "very, very bad news indeed. It shows the folly of Vickers putting all their eggs in one basket and going for the Middle East market."

He added: "I will be taking the earliest opportunity to raise this with defence secretary Malcolm Rifkind in the Commons."

Leyland DAF buyout team seeks backers

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

LEADERS of a proposed management buyout aimed at saving up to 1,400 jobs at the Birmingham van plant of Leyland DAF are today expected to begin the search for financial backers.

Allan Amey, managing director at Birmingham, said: "We have expressed our interest to the receivers and we believe we have got a sensible business plan that can be developed. We believe there is real demand for our product in the UK."

Tony Woodley, national motor group secretary of the TGWU, said: "I hope that even at this late stage the Department of Trade and Industry will co-operate with any management buyout. In the interim, I appeal to all the van plant suppliers to continue supplying the factory in order to give it a fighting chance of survival."

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is from the game Flückinger — Zoller, Switzerland 1992. Black has built up a powerful attacking position, and now won with a standard combination. Can you see how?

Solution on page 33

By PHILIP HOWARD

TAMBOO
a. A rough shelter
b. A tree god
c. A bamboo guitar

KNOPPER
a. A liver sausage
b. An oak-gall
c. Cut-de-sac at Eton Fives

CERATODUS
a. With wavy ears
b. The lungfish
c. The unicorn

REGOLITH
a. Unconsolidated solid material
b. The Curling Jack
c. A landslide

Answers on page 33

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

ACROSS

- Small toothed whale (8)
- Auction goods (4)
- Connecting service (7)
- Give off (5)
- Second Greek letter (4)
- Glossy coating (7)
- Brave (6)
- Highest British knight order (6)
- Cry out (7)
- Clenched hand (4)
- Underwater worker (5)
- Garbage (7)
- Gloomy (4)
- Brow (8)

DOWN

- Mail (4)
- Provoked (5)
- Australian bush (7)
- Record cover (6)
- Eye doctor (7)
- Group guide (8)
- Nobleman (4)
- Marvellous (8)
- Expose (7)
- Warm and friendly (7)
- Rudimentary state (6)
- Affected manners (4)
- Fence steps (5)
- Dull heavy sound (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3021

ACROSS: 1 Harmless 7 Skill 8 Shortlist 9 Lip 10 Egot 11 Skippy 13 Nestle 14 Global 19 Watery 20 Trio 21 Tea 23 Entre nous 24 Cowen 25 As it were

DOWN: 1 Has-been 2 Rictous 3 Little 4 Sticky 5 Silly 6 Slope 7 Stumble 12 Flatten 15 Bar code 16 Looksee 17 Gratis 18 Stack 19 Waive 22 Seat

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Ferry firms seek link to take on tunnel

By OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE two operators that run the Dover-Calais ferry link have asked the government and the Office of Fair Trading to be allowed to co-operate in cutting the service to face up to competition from the Channel tunnel.

Up to half the ten vessels now operating between the two ports could go, some observers think, if the companies, P&O and the Swedish-owned Stena Sealink, gain the approval of the OFT to consolidate.

The alternative, both tell the government, is that one or other may decide to pull out entirely if the route is not sufficiently profitable once the

tunnel opens at the end of this year. Between them, the ferry firms employ almost 8,000 people on the Dover-Calais route.

Both companies are bowled by fair trading legislation not to collaborate over how they operate. Yesterday, they renewed their attempts to have those rules set aside.

They have written to Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, and Sir Bryan Carr, the director-general of fair trading, asking for the lifting of undertakings that prevent them from co-operating. Two approaches to producers of Mr Heseltine were rejected. Lord Sterling, the P&O chairman, said: "In management terms, time is extremely short if we are to effect the changes necessary for the task of providing a viable alternative to the tunnel. It is vital that we should be permitted to get ahead with this without delay."

Rudolph Agnew, the chairman of Stena Sealink, said: "What we need is a regular schedule to compete with the tunnel. Our schedules are now set for 1993. We don't know what form the co-operation will even take at the moment, and whatever we would be allowed to do would take a long time to set up."

As well as cutting back on the number of ferries crossing the Channel, the two are considering setting up a common marketing operation that would merge their existing booking systems under one roof. They are also upset over the amount of state help, in the form of transport links, that has been granted to the tunnel.

Mr Agnew added: "The tunnel is being supported directly and indirectly by government, British and French, in both road and rail investment. Simple justice and commercial logic suggest that now is the time to remove the hand-cuffs from the ferry companies."

Mr Agnew added: "The tunnel is being supported directly and indirectly by government, British and French, in both road and rail investment. Simple justice and commercial logic suggest that now is the time to remove the hand-cuffs from the ferry companies."

Perking up jaded executive palates

By VICTORIA MCKEE



Good cheer: Lady Cobham, offering help to bon viveurs

A NEW type of corporate incentive is being launched by Viscountess Cobham at her home, Hagley Hall in Worcestershire, this week.

It should appeal particularly to those paunchy proponents of the executive lunch who get cold feet at the prospect of more macho, outward-bound-type, team-building exercises.

Wines of the World, a tasting session for corporate bon viveurs who can't tell their muscats from their muscadels but are keen to try, is run by Conal Gregory, a former MP for York.

He is a Master of Wine who got to know Lady Cobham when they were both involved with tourism issues. She was a special adviser to David Mellor when he was at National Heritage.

She said: "With these wine tastings we are trying to create something new for

our regular clients who said: 'We've had a conference, we've had a murder evening, what else can you think of?'"

It involves helping jaded executive palates to distinguish between the types of wine they might encounter on an average restaurant wine list — and showing how to pick the best for the corporate dining room at moderate prices.

"It's often the case that the more you know the less you have to pay," Lady Cobham says, "which in a recessionary climate is even more important." So the wines in the tastings — unless clients specify something more spectacular — might range, as in a "wet run" on Wednesday, from an Old Triangoe Riesling at £4.20 a bottle to a Santenay Premier Cru Beauregard Domaine Roger Ballard 1988, retailing at about £14.

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